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U.S. and Soviets extend INF talks

GENEVA (R) — The chief U.S. and Soviet arms negotiators extended talks on Monday aimed at clinching the first treaty to cut their nuclear missile arsenals in time for a superpower summit in Washington next month. Chief U.S. negotiator Max Kampelman and Soviet counterpart Yuri Vorontsov worked throughout the day and into the evening trying to ensure an accord on scrapping all intermediate-range nuclear (INF) missiles was ready for the Dec. 7-10 summit. Both Mr. Kampelman and Mr. Vorontsov told reporters in the morning that they were confident the elusive treaty, under negotiation since March 1985, would be concluded in time. Asked whether it would be ready for President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to sign, Mr. Vorontsov said: "By all means. We have no doubt about it." Mr. Kampelman said he was certain outstanding problems, notably how to ensure against cheating, could be resolved and a treaty would be signed in December. But after a working lunch, they abandoned plans to move on to other arms control issues and pressed on with efforts to clear the remaining obstacles blocking an INF accord.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Masri: Summit results help Arab standing

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said Monday that the Arab consensus achieved by the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman would foster Arab standing in the international arena, and particularly help efforts to end the Gulf war and find a just and peaceful settlement to the Palestinian question. "The Arab leaders' adoption of the summit's resolution unanimously gave the Arab World more weight in the international arena regarding the region's key issues — the Iran-Iraq war — and the Arab-Israeli conflict," Mr. Masri said in an interview with Jordan Television's "The World in a Week" programme. The full interview with the foreign minister will broadcast on Jordan Television on Thursday. Replying to a question whether meetings between His Majesty King Hussein and Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat during the summit meant a Jordan-PLO reconciliation, Mr. Masri said the word "reconciliation" was wrong to use since it does not apply to the situation between the two parties. "Reconciliation as a word is used when there is a dispute... There is no dispute between Jordan and the PLO... there is a difference in viewpoints between the two."

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King sends good wishes to Syria and Morocco

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a letter of good wishes to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad congratulating him on the occasion of the anniversary of the 1970 corrective movement in Syria. The King wished President Assad continuing good health and happiness and the Syrian people further progress and prosperity. Also on Monday the King sent a letter of good wishes to King Hassan II of Morocco congratulating him on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. The King wished the Moroccan monarch continuing good health and happiness and the Moroccan people further progress and prosperity under his leadership.

Rifai meets ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai conferred separately in his office in Amman on Monday with Egyptian Ambassador Ihab Wahbeh and Iranian Ambassador Said Ibn Iustapha. Discussions covered Jordan's relations with Egypt and Iran. Mr. Rifai later met with Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Ramon Armengod. Petra has no other details.

Police defuse two bombs in east Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Police defused two bombs packed with nails set to explode separately near a petrol station and a vegetable shop in east Beirut on Monday. Police said the bombs, the first containing 15 kilograms of TNT and the second four kilograms, were linked to time devices and set to explode in the crowded residential areas of Salameh and el-Khazneh. A dozen people were killed and 104 wounded in two separate bomb blasts at Beirut's airport and the American University Hospital (AUH) in east Beirut (See story on page 2).

Powell said involved in Iran gate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Army lieutenant-General Colin L. Powell, President Ronald Reagan's choice to be the next national security adviser, was involved in the secret sales of arms to Iran, a published report said Monday. The Washington Post, citing Iran-contra committee sources it did not identify, said Gen. Powell acted as a coordinator for the Pentagon in the November 1985 shipment of anti-aircraft missiles to Iran. The newspaper said the sources said Gen. Powell passed information several times to principal participants and acted as a contact point for the White House. However, the newspaper did not say congressional investigators said not to have Gen. Powell's name in public.

Litan quits Tehiya

TEL AVIV (AP) — Rafael Litan, Israel's chief of staff during the Lebanon invasion, quit the right-wing Tehiya Party Monday to become an independent parliament member.

Iranians hammer neutral shipping in southern Gulf

U.S.-owned/managed tankers carrying Saudi oil among 4 vessels hit in 10 hours

BAHRAIN (AP) — Iran's armed speedboats attacked a U.S.-owned supertanker and three other neutral vessels in the southern Gulf on Monday, in expected retaliation for an Iraqi aerial blitz of Iranian oil shipping lanes, shipping officials said.

The series of attacks, coming over a 10-hour period and three of them in daylight, were the most in a single day since last Sept. 2 when the seaborne Revolutionary Guards struck five vessels.

Shipping industry executives in the Gulf had forecast the attacks as reprisal for Iraq's week-long wave of air raids on shuttle tankers along the Iranian coast. Two such raids late Sunday brought the total for the week to 15, of which four were confirmed by independent sources.

Iran's official Islamic News Agency (IRNA) quoted a war communiqué as saying anti-aircraft gunners shot down three

Iraqi aircraft on Sunday, one over the "southern border region" and two others in Bakhtar, about 130 kilometres from the border in central Iran.

A Baghdad communiqué said 10 civilians were killed and 32 others wounded in Iranian shelling of the southern Iraqi border city of Basra and communities near the central and northern front.

A third Filipino seaman was reported to have died of wounds suffered when one of the Exocet missile-firing planes sank a chartered salvage tug on Friday. Two died instantly and three others were injured when the jet, apparently going after a char-

tered Greek supertanker crippled in two previous strikes, hit the 740-ton tug Salvatir instead.

The 18th convoy of U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti tankers was in mid-Gulf on its way towards the Strait of Hormuz. The convoy, consisting of two oil products tankers, the 81,283-ton Surf City and the 79,999-ton Chesapeake City, left Kuwait early Sunday under escort by the navy missile frigates Thach and Carr.

Tehran and Baghdad exchanged new threats amid growing speculation that Iran is about to launch its first major ground offensive in the seven-year-old war since February.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei was quoted by Tehran Radio as saying a "new movement" would occur soon, in which students would have to fight and a fifth of government employees would be called on to "breathe the smell of the war-fronts."

(Continued on page 3)

Palestinians, Lebanese militiamen battle in S. Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Heavy machinegun battles erupted on Monday between Lebanese militiamen and Palestinians defending 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp near this southern town, police said.

It was the second flare-up in two days pitting the nascent Popular Liberation Army (PLA), which controls Sidon, against fighters of Abu Nidal's Fateh Revolutionary Council.

The fighting, at the western entrance to 'Ain Al Hilweh, wounded a policeman who was guarding a nearby police station, police said.

Residents said machinegun fire echoed across Sidon, 42 kilometres south of Beirut, forcing closure of the road from the port town to the refugee settlement, the biggest in Lebanon.

Two Abu Nidal guerrillas were killed in rocket and machinegun exchanges on Sunday over the presence of armed Palestinians near a local vegetable market.

The PLA, backed by Syrian, bans Palestinian guerrillas from entering Sidon.

Palestinian fighters have been fighting Amal militiamen over the past year for control of strategic hilltops overlooking 'Ain Al Hilweh and the nearby Mich Mich camp.

The PLA has acted as a mediator between the two sides and deployed fighters in the area as a buffer force between them. In hills east of the city, Palestinians and Amal also fought all night with machineguns and rocket propelled grenades. An Amal militiaman was killed and three other combatants, one Amal fighter and two Palestinians, were wounded.

The PLO's renewed clashes with Amal militia strained a newly proclaimed agreement between the two sides aimed at ending nearly three years of war for control of refugee camps in Beirut and South Lebanon.

The accord was concluded Nov. 5 in Algiers between Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and Amal chieftain Nabih Berri.

S. Arabia, Bahrain resume diplomatic relations with Egypt

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia on Monday became the seventh Arab League member state to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt after last week's Arab summit in Amman.

Bahrain took a similar step earlier in the day. Saudi Information Minister Ali Shaer said King Fahd ordered that "relations with sister Egypt be resumed as of today, in support of Arab solidarity."

Mr. Shaer's statement, distributed by the Saudi Press Agency and broadcast by the state-run radio and television, stressed that the move was motivated by the "unity of aspirations and views in the face of the machinations of evil and aggression menacing the very existence of the Arab World."

In Manama, a Foreign Ministry statement carried by the Gulf News Agency said the decision to re-establish ties with Egypt was in line with Bahrain's quest for pan-Arab solidarity.

In taking the decision, the statement said, Bahrain was deeply convinced that the Arab World "now more than ever before requires collective action in a spirit of brotherly cooperation to repulse the dangers that beset it and labour for its dignity."

The statement paid tribute to Egypt and its President Hosni Mubarak for the "nationalist stance in support of the Arab World's security."

The moves by Saudi Arabia and Bahrain were in line with a decision passed by the Arab summit in Amman to let each Arab country decide on its own the future of its ties with Egypt.

The United Arab Emirates last week declared it was resuming full diplomatic ties with Egypt. Iraq, Morocco, Kuwait, and North Yemen also revived relations with Egypt since last Wednesday.

W. Bank university officials denounce Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — West Bank university administrators demanded Monday that Israel reopen a Vatican-funded Arab school in occupied Bethlehem and reevaluate its use of sniper rifles to quell student protests.

"Repeated and extended university closures do nothing to redress the grievances of young Palestinians," said Bethlehem University Deputy Dean Brother Anton de Roepers. "They exacerbate the situation they pretend to cure. We want to go back to work."

But Israeli military officials claimed the university was closed for three months only after two prior warnings and several violent demonstrations, and said they doubted the order would be reversed.

Army officials, acting with approval from the defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, ordered Bethlehem University closed on Oct. 29, a day after Israeli soldiers clashed with students there, killing one.

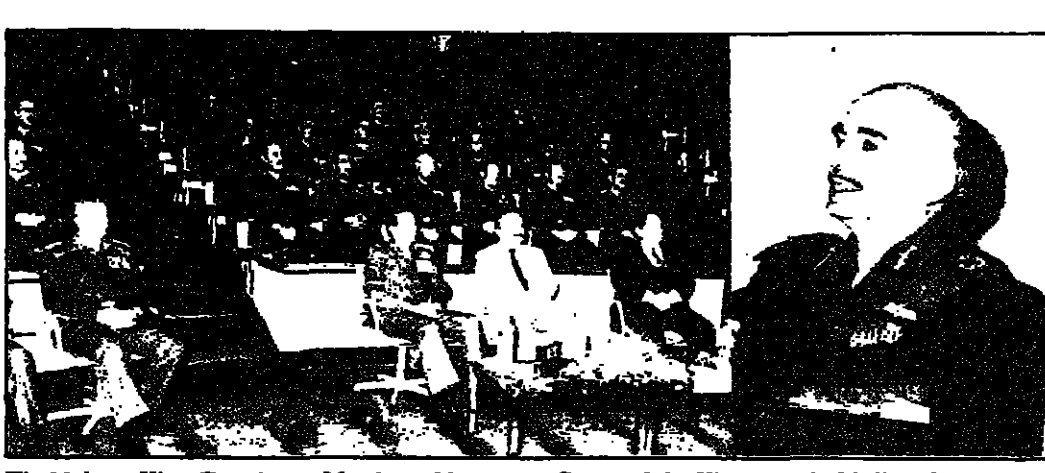
The student, 22-year-old Ishak Abu Srur, was shot in the head by an Israeli marksman using a 22-calibre Barrett pistol introduced by the army as a more accurate weapon than the semi-automatic M-16 or Israeli-made Galil assault rifles carried by most troops.

"We deplore the acts of killing and aggression against university students which culminated in the tragic loss of Ishak Abu Srur as we deplore the military order to close the university," student council president Ali Dakhallah told a news conference called to protest at the incident.

Anton Sansour, executive vice president of the 1,600-student university, said Israeli students were allowed to express themselves but Palestinians could not.

"When there are demonstrations of religious and secular Jews, the army uses methods to put them down that don't cause injury and no demonstrators are killed," said Mr. Sansour, who is also president of the council for higher education in the occupied territories.

Mr. Dakhallah said a student council member and a second-year student at the university had been arrested on "security" charges since the fatal shooting of 22-year-old Abu Srur.



His Majesty King Hussein on Monday addresses officers of the Public Security, Civil Defence and General Departments at a meeting held at the Fara Centre of the King Hussein Medical Centre (Petra photo)

King lauds security personnel for their role in success of summit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, met at the Fara Centre at the King Hussein Medical Centre on Monday with officers from the Armed Forces and the Public Security, Civil Defence and General Intelligence departments who took part in preparations and arrangements for the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman last week.

His Majesty thanked all those present at the meeting for the efforts they made to make the summit a success and to ensure the suitable atmosphere for its convening in Amman.

"I am very pleased to be with you to extend all thanks and gratitude to you and through you to all the personnel of our Armed Forces, and the Public Security, Civil Defence and General Intelligence departments who exerted great efforts before and during the summit," the King told the officers.

The King also voiced his thanks to every Jordanian who contributed to ensuring the suitable atmosphere for the summit.

Monday's meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb. Also present at the meeting were the directors of the Public Security, Civil Defence and General Intelligence departments and the Royal Medical Services, the assistant chiefs of staff, the Armed Forces inspector general and a number of high-ranking Armed Forces officers.

CBJ says no Jordanian bank could have lost on Wall Street

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has denied reports and rumours that Jordanian banks had incurred losses in the latest crash on Wall Street and other financial centres.

Dr. Maher Shukri, deputy governor of the CBJ, told the Jordan Times on Sunday that "no losses could have occurred because Jordanian banks are not allowed to hold any short-term or long-term investments in foreign markets."

What is permissible for Jordanian banks to maintain in funds abroad, Dr. Shukri said, are only foreign currencies equivalent to 15 per cent of the value of each letter of credit opened by a Jordanian importer in favour of a foreign supplier.

He ruled out the possibility that other forms of placements



Dr. Maher Shukri might have taken place "because the CBJ continuously conducts thorough audit on the financial records of the commercial banks and financial companies."

Regarding possible losses by individual Jordanians who rode the wave of soaring prices of American, European and Japanese shares and stocks before taking a plunge last month, Dr. Shukri said the CBJ had repeatedly warned the citizens not to tap "unsecured, volatile and unstable" foreign markets because of high risks.

He added that according to Article 31 of the CBJ law, investments outside the Kingdom are forbidden but the monetary authorities do not enforce the regulation. As such, free movement of currencies do take place without controls "as everyone knows," Dr. Shukri noted. He estimated the amount that Jordanian individuals hold in foreign

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Burning Iranian platform sparks pollution fears

BAHRAIN (R) — An Iranian oil platform ablaze by a U.S. attack last month might explode and send millions of barrels of oil flooding into the already polluted waters of the Gulf, oil sources in the region said on Monday.

They said fire was still raging on the platform at Iran's Rostam Oilfield 120 miles east of Bahrain in the central Gulf, probably because the Iranians were trying to burn off gushing oil.

"If the fire goes out, the oil will flow into the sea and will constitute a substantial pollution hazard," one oil source said. "The Iranians are probably re-igniting it to prevent pollution."

The U.S. Defence Department said it demolished one platform at Rostam and partially destroyed another on Oct. 19 because they were being used as bases for Iranian gunboat raids on merchant ships. Iran denied the charge.

Environmental experts say oil pollution in the Gulf, home to the rare endangered sea mammals known as dugongs, is 47 times higher than average.

Some oil sources said there was a risk that high temperatures at the burning platform could set off a major explosion and send reserves from the whole field, estimated at 130 million barrels, gushing into the Gulf.

"The danger is that when the temperature reaches a critical point, the whole pipe could melt, triggering an explosion at the well-head. The situation would then be very difficult to control," one source said.

The sources said it was difficult to assess the possibility of an explosion without knowing which part of the field, which comprises several wells and many pipelines, was damaged.

But they said the likelihood of such an accident was greater when oil was mixed with gas, as it is at Rostam.

Accurate figures on pollution in the Gulf are hard to obtain since few co-ordinated studies have been made since the Iran-Iraq war began more than seven years ago.

Environmental experts say the waterway, conduit for one-sixth of the non-Communist world's oil, is particularly vulnerable because it is shallow and virtually landlocked.

Discharges of oil from punctured tankers, industrial centres, offshore drilling sites and underwater pipelines this year have aggravated the problem.

"The oil from Rostam could either drift north and east to directly contradict the official navy findings of a board of inquiry, released in a censored version on Oct. 15.

It also raises new questions about the ability of similar frigates — at least six ships of the same type are currently deployed in the Gulf — to defend themselves against such attacks.

Thirty-seven sailors died in the attack, which has been characterised by both Iraq and the United States as an accident.

The inquiry board recommended courts-martial for Capt. Brindel and his tactical action officer, but that recommendation was set aside after the two men accepted responsibility for the incident. Both were reprimanded.

Capt. Brindel will retire soon at the lower rank of commander. The board of inquiry harshly criticised Capt. Brindel and some of his top officers for failing to defend the Stark. Capt. Brindel, the report concluded, "failed to provide combat-oriented leadership, allowing Stark's anti-air warfare readiness to disintegrate to the point that his Combat Information Centre team was unable to defend the ship."

His version of the events is contained in a lengthy letter to the editor, printed in Monday's edition of the weekly newspaper "Navy Times." The Springfield, Virginia-based newspaper has no official connection with the navy.

"In fairness to a brave and capable crew, I have decided to respond to your article about the investigation," Capt. Brindel wrote.

"I recognise the desire to erase what some believe was an embarrassment to the navy. This should not be the case. We must take the lessons learned, make needed improvements and ensure a tragedy like this never happens again."

Frankfurt, West Germany, and on to Tehran.

Pattis, employed by Cosmos Engineers, worked at the Asadabad Telecommunications Centre 320 kilometres south of Tehran at the time of his arrest, which came shortly after an Iraqi air raid on the facility.

Malak said UNRWA, which cares for some 300,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, plans to repair the only school in Bourj Al Barajneh but this would take time.

UNRWA spokeswoman Raya Abdel Malik said they rushed the heavily-guarded gate and ran to the first and second floors where they smashed windows and ripped posters off walls.

The protest ended after an hour when police dispersed the demonstrators.

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French explosives reportedly shipped to Iran via Sweden

PARIS (AP) — A French state-controlled arms company shipped large quantities of explosives via Sweden to Iran from 1982 to 1985, the newspaper Le Matin reported Monday.

The newspaper published what it said were copies of documents proving that thousands of tons of explosive powder were sent via the Sweden-based firm Scandinavian commodity to Iran from the National Powders and Explosives Co., which is owned 99.85 per cent by the French government.

France is one of the chief suppliers of Iraq, which has been at war with Iran since 1980. Paris has had an arms embargo in place against Tehran, although there have been other reports of French arms shipments diverted to the Islamic Republic.

Le Matin quoted Paul Dupuy, chief assistant to the president of National Powders and Explosives Co., as saying the company did not know its shipments were going to Iran.

"The destination was South America, particularly Argentina," Mr. Dupuy was quoted as saying. "It was only at the end of 1985 that we began to have doubts about the real destination."

KOTC Chairman Abdul Fattah Al Bader said the presence of some 30 U.S. warships in or near the waterway had helped deter Iranian attacks.

He told Reuters in an interview that if anything happened to the scheme, launched in July to protect Kuwait's oil exports, the consequences would be very serious.

KOTC put half its 22 tankers under the Stars and Stripes to qualify for U.S. naval protection after Iran targeted Kuwait shipping for attack in response to the northern Gulf emirate's support for Tehran's war enemy Iraq.

"The escorts have been working very well. We greatly appreciate what the U.S. is doing," Mr. Bader said.

An irony of the scheme, however, is that American-owned ships under foreign registry do not qualify for protection.

Iranian gunboats on Monday attacked two tankers within two hours using their usual armament of rocket-propelled grenades.

The first vessel, the 260,831-tonne Esso Freeport, is owned by the U.S. oil major Exxon but flies the Bahamian flag. The second was the 79,986-tonne Greek-flagged Fillkon L. Neither was seriously damaged.

Critics say the U.S. escort plan, bitterly resented by Tehran, has exposed Kuwait to greater risk and point to Iranian Silkworth missile attacks on Kuwaiti oil facilities last month.

One hit the reflagged tanker Sea Isle City in Kuwaiti waters and another knocked Kuwait's main oil export terminal out of action on Oct. 22.

But Mr. Bader said things could have been worse. "The U.S. presence is a deterrent. It is making it very difficult for Iran to attack."

The 18th convoy of reflagged tankers left Kuwait on Sunday. Only the first convoy in July hit trouble when the supertanker Bridgeton struck a mine in the northern Gulf.

Mr. Bader said the reflagged tankers carried more than 65 per cent of Kuwait's refined product exports and 100 per cent of its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) on a cost-and-freight basis where delivery is included in the price.

Kuwait refines two-thirds of its crude oil production. Refined products, including petrol sold in its European stations, now form the bulk of its oil revenue.

"It would be very serious to us if anything happened (to the escort scheme)," Mr. Bader said.

The U.S. Congress has criticised the American naval deployment in the Gulf and sought to limit protection of Kuwaiti tankers, fearing it may lead to open war with Iran.

Mr. Bader said the Defence Ministry had taken steps to protect tankers and oil facilities in Kuwaiti waters, where the U.S. navy does not operate.

"The attacks on Kuwait were a session would form groundwork for an international conference despite a cool reception to the idea from the White House."

Mr. Carter said he would like to see an international conference where the most powerful representatives of the parties in Middle East conflicts would voice their opinions publicly, then privately negotiate their bitter problems concerning land rights and war.

"You have a situation now where the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Syria and Jordan and Egypt and a major portion of the leaders in Israel are all making the same effort," Mr. Carter said last week.

"This is unprecedented," he said. "And my guess is that with proper leadership, primarily from Washington, that the other portion of the Israeli leadership and the Palestinian community would join the effort."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir opposes such a conference, arguing that Israel would be pressured to give up land and security zones among other properties.

But Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of the left-leaning Labour Party, who rules with Shamir in a coalition govern-

ment, has advocated an international peace conference.

The proposed forum would include the five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Britain and China — as well as Israel, Jordan, Palestinian representatives and possibly other Arab states.

Mr. Carter, who presided over the Camp David accords and was mediator of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, says the attention that an international conference attracts would be beneficial.

"The parties would have a forum in which they could present their best case to an intensely interested worldwide audience, which they have never had before," he said.

Carter hopes Atlanta meeting to be prelude to Mideast peace conference

ATLANTA (AP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was expected to open a meeting Monday of representatives of world powers and Middle East combatants in what he hopes will be a major step toward a full-scale peace conference.

"The Middle East Consultation: A Look at the Future" is not the peace conference he wants, but participants in the three-day meeting are "people who can speak accurately," Mr. Carter said.

The meeting at the Carter Presidential Centre will include representatives of Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Israel, the Soviet Union, China, France, Britain, the Palestinians, the United Nations and the U.S. State Department.

The conference "will be for everyone to learn," Mr. Carter said in an interview with the Atlanta Journal and the Atlanta Constitution, in Sunday's editions.

"And we'll issue a summary of the consultation's results that will be distributed to all the potential future presidents of the United States. I think this would be of benefit to them, whether or not they agree with all the facets of it," he said.

Mr. Carter said he hoped the sessions would form groundwork for an international conference despite a cool reception to the idea from the White House.

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"The parties would have a forum in which they could present their best case to an intensely interested worldwide audience, which they have never had before," he said.

Mr. Carter was expected to open the conference with a speech on Monday night. Tuesday morning's session will focus on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Tuesday's afternoon session will deal with the Gulf situation.

The conference will close Wednesday with an afternoon discussion on "future options — methods and substance," followed by a public address by Mr. Carter summing up the conference.

Asked who he thought was behind the new bombings in Beirut, Mr. Junblatt told reporters: "We know the mastermind of these bombings are the Lebanese Forces and the army intelligence. The day will come when we will settle scores with them."

He charged the Falangists with out to discredit Syria's law-enforcement effort in west Beirut after the recent Arab summit conference in Amman by apparently renewed Syria peacekeeping mandate Lebanon.

"Our Syrian brothers show watch out for more such attacks after the summit's renewal of its mandate," Mr. Junblatt said.

The Syrians, Lebanon's major power brokers, maintain 25,000 troops in northern and east Lebanon under a 1976 mandate from the Arab League to end the Lebanese civil war.

They also deployed 7,500 troops in west Beirut last Friday in a bid to curb the chaos reign of feuding opposition militias.

No group has claimed responsibility for any of the bombings this week with the aid of the American University Hospital atrocities.

Police said seven people were killed, and 37 wounded when a truck packed with explosives exploded at the crowded Abu lobby on Saturday.

The U.S. State Department condemned the hospital bombing as "particularly despicable and utterly heinous act of bringing violence into a place of healing."

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Junblatt accuses Falangists of bombings

BEIRUT (AP) — Druze warlord Walid Junblatt has accused Lebanon's Falangists of engineering this week's bombings at Beirut airport and the American University Hospital in which 11 people were killed and 11 wounded.

Mr. Junblatt said the Lebanese Forces, the Falangists' main militia in Lebanon's 12-year-old civil war, and the Lebanese Intelligence Service of the Lebanese army masterminded the two bombings in Syrian-policed Muhiim west Beirut.

There was no immediate response from the Lebanese Forces or the army command to the charge, which Mr. Junblatt said to reporters at his ancestral palace in Moukhtara, 3 kilometres south east of the Lebanese capital.

He spoke after a 45-minute closed-door meeting followed by a working lunch with British Ambassador John Gray, who told reporters afterwards that the discussed "events in Lebanon the Middle East and the Gulf. Mr. Gray did not elaborate."

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Kuwait: U.S. tanker escorts working well

KUWAIT (R) — The head of the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) on Monday praised U.S. naval escorts for its tankers in the Gulf and said Iranian Silkworth missile attacks on the emirate last month were just a "passing cloud."

KOTC Chairman Abdul Fattah Al Bader said the presence of some 30 U.S. warships in or near the waterway had helped deter Iranian attacks.

He told Reuters in an interview that if anything happened to the scheme, launched in July to protect Kuwait's oil exports, the consequences would be very serious.

KOTC put half its 22 tankers under the Stars and Stripes to qualify for U.S. naval protection after Iran targeted Kuwait shipping for attack in response to the northern Gulf emirate's support for Tehran's war enemy Iraq.

"The escorts have been working very well. We greatly appreciate what the U.S. is doing," Mr. Bader said.

An irony of the scheme, however, is that American-owned ships under foreign registry do not qualify for protection.

Iranian gunboats on Monday attacked two tankers within two hours using their usual armament of rocket-propelled grenades.

The first vessel, the 260,831-tonne Esso Freeport, is owned by the U.S. oil major Exxon but flies the Bahamian flag. The second was the 79,986-tonne Greek-flagged Fillkon L. Neither was seriously damaged.

Critics say the U.S. escort plan, bitterly resented by Tehran, has exposed Kuwait to greater risk and point to Iranian Silkworth missile attacks on Kuwaiti oil facilities last month.

One hit the reflagged tanker Sea Isle City in Kuwaiti waters and another knocked Kuwait's main oil export terminal out of action on Oct. 22.

But Mr. Bader said things could have been worse. "The U.S. presence is a deterrent. It is making it very difficult for Iran to attack."

The 18th convoy of reflagged tankers left Kuwait on Sunday. Only the first convoy in July hit trouble when the supertanker Bridgeton struck a mine in the northern Gulf.

Mr. Bader said the reflagged tankers carried more than 65 per cent of Kuwait's refined product exports and 100 per cent of its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) on a cost-and-freight basis where delivery is included in the price.

Kuwait refines two-thirds of its crude oil production. Refined products, including petrol sold in its European stations, now form the bulk of its oil revenue.

"It would be very serious to us if anything happened (to the escort scheme)," Mr. Bader said.

The U.S. Congress has criticised the American naval deployment in the Gulf and sought to limit protection of Kuwaiti tankers, fearing it may lead to open war with Iran.

Mr. Bader said the Defence Ministry had taken steps to protect tankers and oil facilities in Kuwaiti waters, where the U.S. navy does not operate.

"The attacks on Kuwait were a passing cloud... I think our ports are safe now for sailing in and out," he said.

Asked if this meant Iran's Chinese-made Silkworths, deployed on Iraq's occupied Fao peninsula 100 kilometres away, were no longer a threat, Mr. Bader said: "I think we have taken care of that."

Western diplomats say Kuwait has placed barges with radar reflectors in the Gulf north of its oil ports to deflect missiles. It has also redeployed U.S.-made Hawk anti-aircraft missiles on nearby Failaka Island, they say.

Mr. Bader called damage to the sea island terminal extensive but "not that serious."

The terminal, 10 miles offshore, handled about one-third of Kuwait's crude oil exports before the attack.

"Repairs are under way and it should not be long before it comes back into service," Mr. Bader said. He declined to predict when, and said much depended on weather conditions that had hampered work so far.

The missile slammed into a corner of the central loading platform but damage mainly involved pipes, electrical cables and a small tank, Mr. Bader said.

A mooring two miles from sea island would be operational within a few days to accommodate very large crude carriers (VLCCs) that have been unable to fully load since the attack, Mr. Bader said.

He said there had been no reduction in Kuwait's crude oil exports of around 450,000 barrels per day (BPD).

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Former captain of Stark defends crew

WASHINGTON (AP) — The former skipper of the USS Stark says his crew did not defend the frigate against an Iraqi air attack last May because four different radar and detection systems failed to indicate the ship was under attack.

Capt. Glenn R. Brindel, in his first extensive comment on the attack and the navy's resulting investigation, acknowledged "deficiencies in the watch on the night of May 17th."

"Their actions or inactions, however, contrary to what the investigation would have you believe, are not primary causes for Stark's failure to defend against the Exocet (missile) attack," he said. "Unfortunately, the ship's radars and electronics did not function as advertised..."

Capt. Brindel's assertion that the frigate's equipment was ineffective against Exocet missiles

directly contradicts the official navy findings of a board of inquiry, released in a censored version on Oct. 15.

It also raises new questions about the ability of similar frigates — at least six ships of the same type are currently deployed in the Gulf — to defend themselves against such attacks.

Thirty-seven sailors died in the attack, which has been characterised by both Iraq and the United States as an accident.

King and Queen attend waterskiing contest marking King's birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Monday attended a waterskiing competition organised by the Aquamarina Hotel in cooperation with the Tourism Authority and the Royal Jordanian.

Accompanied by several members of the royal family, the King and Queen watched a performance by competitors from the S. Cyprus Gardens team. The Jordanian water-skiers carried Jordanian flags and posters as a nod to the King on the occasion of his 52nd birthday.

Following the skiing competition, there was a parade of floats decorated with portraits of the King and Jordanian flags. A national folk troupe danced on one of the boats in a performance for the King and Queen.

Later, Their Majesties watched a water ballet performance by the S. group.

The waterskiing events began Saturday, the King's 52nd birthday, with an offshore race covering a distance of 40 kilometres.

Americans took the first and second places, followed by two Jordanians, who took third and fourth places.

Among those attending the waterskiing competition were Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn al-Hussein and Aqaba Region Authority Director Bassam Qaqish and other officials, in addition to invited spectators.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn al-Hussein watch a Monday waterskiing competition in Aqaba. The event marked the occasion of King Hussein's 52nd birthday (Petra photo).

A cable of good wishes from the new president of Tunisia, Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, and another from Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id of Oman. The two heads of state wished the King continued happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

Celebrations continue throughout Kingdom

The wife of the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker on Monday opened the hall of the Mu'ab Charitable Society in Zarqa governorate, as part of Zarqa's celebrations marking the King's birthday.

During the opening ceremony, poems were recited, hailing the role of King Hussein in achieving reconciliation among and uniting Arab ranks.

Director of the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives Dr. Ahmad Shkarak opened an exhibition of handicrafts and books on the occasion, as well.

Also on Monday, Karak Governor Salem al-Qudah opened the Karak Secondary Vocational School and other schools in villages throughout the governorate.

Mr. Qudah stressed that the opening of these schools came upon the directives of His Majesty, as a part of his efforts to boost the Kingdom's educational system.

Health facilities opened

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh on Monday laid the foundation stone for the new hospital in Tafleeh and opened a mother and child care centre in Al Hassa, as part of the Kingdom's celebrations.

of the King's birthday.

Dr. Hamzeh said that the inauguration of the hospital in Tafleeh coincided with two very special occasions: His Majesty's birthday and the successful conclusion of the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman.

During his visit to Tafleeh, the minister also met with Tafleeh Governor Aref Ersheid, who briefed him on the governorate's needs.

Dr. Hamzeh also opened new drug stores in Tafleeh and toured a number of health centres throughout the governorate.

The new hospital, built on 50 dunums, has 100 beds, with the capacity to increase to 200.

Princess Basma attends graduation ceremony

NORTHERN JORDAN VALLEY (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Monday attended a graduation ceremony for 40 young women who completed their training at the Wadi Al Yabes Charitable Society. The event was held at the Wadi Al Yabes secondary girls school.

The Princess, who is chairperson of the Queen Alia Social and Welfare Fund (QAF), made a speech on the occasion, saying that the QAF has worked out a plan for promoting social work in the Jordan Valley region and for improving its activities in cooperation with the Jordan Valley Authority.

The society's president outlined the various activities in Wadi Al Yabes, which include vocational training courses and childcare assistance for mothers. Princess Basma distributed diplomas to the graduates, who completed courses in typing, dressmaking and hairdressing.

CBJ says no Jordanian bank lost on Wall Street

(Continued from page 1)

assets (cash, shares, stocks, bonds and real estate) at about JD 1 billion (\$3.4 billion). He gave no figures on possible losses.

Replying to a question about the effect of a lower dollar on the value of the Jordanian dinar, Dr. Shukri pointed out that other currencies, like the deutsche mark, the yen and the Swiss franc, had appreciated in value and, as a result, the combination (or weight) of these currencies in the "basket of currencies" which the CBJ holds remains unchanged and, therefore, the Jordanian dinar "is neither under downward nor upward pressure."

"On the contrary," Dr. Shukri said, "a lower dollar would even gain if the dollar continues to drop since 75 per cent of our loans are denominated in dollars." However, he conceded that the decline would affect the value of aid which Jordan also receives in dollars.

Commenting on interest rates which fell recently in the U.S. and other European countries, Dr. Shukri said there was room for interest rates to fall in Jordan but the CBJ was leaving the move to the commercial banks to decide on that.

"The CBJ has fixed the upper limit and the banks, based on market forces, are free to offer lower rates," Dr. Shukri pointed out. He added that if the banks did not take the lead while the circumstances warranted, the CBJ might oblige the banks to cut interest rates.

Dr. Shukri described the current monetary policy of the CBJ as "flexible and liberal." He said that in order to provide more liquidity to the market, the CBJ lowered the obligatory reserve — which the banks are required to maintain at the CBJ — from 12 per cent to seven per cent.

CAEU confident of overcoming financial troubles

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Representatives of the Arab countries which are permanent members of the Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) opened their discussions here Monday amidst high hopes that the political solidarity achieved by 21 Arab leaders at the extraordinary Arab summit would reflect positively on joint Arab economic action.

The meeting is also expected to hammer out a resolution to save the financially-troubled CAEU, which has been unable to cover its current expenditures and to pay its staff's salaries for the past three months.

In an interview with the Jordan Times on Monday, CAEU Secretary-General Mahdi Obeidi did not disclose figures on the council's current deficit.

However, he sounded confident that the present situation would be contained due to the positive resolutions adopted by the extraordinary summit aimed at lifting all specialised Arab agencies and organisations affiliated with Arab League ministerial councils from their critical financial situations.

"I am extremely optimistic about the situation of the CAEU from its present situation, in view of the decisions adopted by the Amman summit on rescuing the financially-troubled organisations. There is a trend now that Arab countries will honour their financial commitments to these Arab agencies and councils," Mr. Obeidi said.

The CAEU secretary-general said the council's financial situation, in particular, would be tackled on Dec. 6, when the 48th meeting of the CAEU Ministerial Council opens in Amman. The meeting will be attended by the Arab ministers concerned.

The situation at the CAEU is very similar to the condition of other Arab League organisations and specialised Arab agencies working in the fields of agriculture, tourism, standardisation and administrative developments. This grave situation surfaced during the past year when the lack of Arab coordination reached its peak; it ended when the majority of Arab countries, for various reasons, stopped honouring their financial commitments to these organisations.

The situation of these Arab organisations and institutions was, according to well-informed sources, brought up at the summit by Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi and discussed by the Arab leaders who attended the meeting.

The Amman summit, according to these sources, took several resolutions to address this problem; one of which was to demand that Arab countries embark immediately on settling their shares in the 1987 budgets of all these

specialised agencies and organisations.

In order to ensure the implementation of this resolution, the sources said the Arab leaders agreed not to link their decision to contribute their respective shares to these organisations with the work of an eight-member committee entrusted with evaluating the performance of all of these agencies.

The sources were referring to the committee grouping eight Arab ministers, which was formed on Feb. 2, 1986 to evaluate the performance of these agencies and to draw up a final framework for their structural organisation in order to avoid duplication of work.

The sources also said that Arab leaders agreed to settle their countries' shares in these organisations during the first quarter of each year.

In the meantime, the four-day meeting of the representatives from the permanent CAEU member countries opened with optimism that Arab officials would work towards salvaging Arab economic unity and cooperation from its present state of stagnation.

The CAEU meeting began with calls for financial and technical support to enable the CAEU to shoulder its responsibilities. These appeals came from Mr. Obeidi and the chairman of the Palestinian delegation to the meeting, Mr. Zuhdi Sa'id.

"Our Arab World is in need of well-complemented political and economic efforts to upgrade the situation persisting in the area," Dr. Sa'id said, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

In addition to attempting to devise a recommendation on the CAEU's financial situation to be forwarded to the Dec. 6 meeting for adoption, the current gathering will also discuss a follow-up report on the council's 47th meeting, prepared by Mr. Obeidi, as well as its present and future plans.

In his keynote address to the opening session, Mr. Obeidi expressed hope for increased pan-Arab efforts to consolidate the Arab march towards economic integration, in light of the successful ending of the Amman summit dedicated to uniting the Arab World.

Mr. Obeidi called on the Arab countries to adhere to resolutions adopted by ordinary and extraordinary Arab summits on supporting Arab organisations through honouring their financial commitments to allow these agencies to carry out their duties.

Underlining the council's achievements, Mr. Obeidi referred to various projects, including programmes for Arab agricultural integration, regional development, Arab trade exchange, and for a system of gathering statistical indicators on pan-Arab social development.

Developments on the international economic scene and their effects on the Arab economy.

global economic relations, fluctuations in international exchange rates and trade protectionism were also discussed by Mr. Obeidi.

These international developments, he said, "constitute real threats to chances for development in Third World countries and to prospects for achieving prosperity from international trade."

"Due to prevailing trends encouraging the internationalisation of trade, no country can survive on its own no matter how hard it tries to stay away from these trends. Hence, it is of paramount importance that underdeveloped countries form economic blocs," the CAEU secretary-general said.

He called on Arab countries "to work towards completing an Arab economic bloc" and to consolidate the group's position in order to play more effective role in confronting these negative international developments.

The recent threats endangering the Arab security and the Arab Order, including the continuation of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories and the Iranian aggression against Iraq, as well as the civil strife in Lebanon, were cited by Mr. Obeidi as conflicts which hamper economic prosperity in the region.

The meetings are attended by delegations from the United Arab Emirates, Syria, Sudan, Palestine, Iraq, Libya, and South Yemen, in addition to Jordan.

Our Arab World is in need of

Haj Hassan reaffirms government's concern for expatriates' interests

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Haj Hassan on Monday reaffirmed the government's concern for the interests of Jordanian expatriates.

Speaking at separate meetings with Jordan's ambassadors to Qatar, Khalid Al Kayed, and to the United Arab Emirates, Zuhair Sakjiha, the minister said that the government was addressing the interests of expatriates according to directives from His Majesty King Hussein.

During the meetings, he discussed steps being taken to establish a Jordanian holding company — a move which was endorsed by the Third Jordanian Expatriates Congress, held in Amman last July.

The company will be set up by the expatriates to raise funds to be channelled into development projects in Jordan.

The two ambassadors told the minister that expatriates working

in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have bought shares in the projected company which, they said, is expected to materialise early next month.

Nearly 650 expatriates — Jordanian citizens working and living in 20 Arab and foreign countries — took part in the four-day congress. The participants discussed working papers on matters of concern to the expatriates, such as dual nationality, the holding company, employment possibilities in Jordan and abroad and the 1986-1990 five-year national development plan.

The holding company was initially approved by the Second Jordanian Expatriates Conference held here in 1986.

Last September, the Kuwaiti daily Al-Siyassah said that Jordanian expatriates' money transfers to their homeland have been increasing progressively over the past five years. It said that the

expatriates transferred a total of JD 413 million in 1986, up from JD 381 million in 1982.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai in July urged the expatriates meeting in Amman to convert their foreign currency funds into Jordanian currency and increase their contribution towards the prosperity of the country through investments in development projects.

Mr. Rifai said Jordan's economy was strong, thanks to sound planning and proper execution of programmes carried out by cooperation between the private and public sectors in Jordan, and with additional support from Arab countries and Arab and foreign funds.

Mr. Rifai announced then that the government planned to appoint commercial attaches at Jordan's embassies abroad to advise expatriates on areas of investment in their homeland.

Statistics training course begins

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Statistics on Monday opened a three-week training course on conducting population censuses.

The course will educate the 40 participants methods of conducting censuses and analysing collected data on births, deaths, emigration and related variables.

Director-General of the Department of Statistics Dr. Abdul Hadi Al Alawin addressed the opening session, saying that training personnel to do statistical work is essential if development plans in Arab countries are to succeed.

Population censuses are the major source of information for planners, helping them to chart programmes for the future, Dr. Alawin added.

He said that his department has begun preparations for the 1989 population census in Jordan.

RSS symposiums discuss papers on building, research

AMMAN (Petra) — A symposium on employing low-cost materials in construction continued on Monday at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), with the participants discussing working papers on low-cost and using energy-saving materials in building homes for limited-income families.

The symposium, held in cooperation with the Economic and Social Committee for Western Asia (ESCWA), will last three

more days.

Another symposium organised by the RSS, in cooperation with ESCWA, is currently underway, addressing the promotion of scientific research and development in Western Asian countries.

The five-day symposium, opened on Sunday, reviewed on Monday a number of field studies submitted by experts from Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia.

Industrial corporation invites students to attend exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) has extended invitations to schools, universities and community colleges to visit the national industrial exhibition currently being held at the Sahab Industrial City, on the outskirts of

Amman. The exhibition marks His Majesty King Hussein's 52nd birthday.

Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher on Sunday opened the exhibition, which is displaying samples of various Jordanian products.

Iranians hammer shipping

(Continued from page 1)

Baghdad's Al Thawra daily, an organ of the ruling Baath Socialist Party, said "no-one will survive Iraq's firepower" if Iran launched "another ill-fated offensive." Iraqi forces have been on maximum alert since last Sunday.

On Monday's retaliatory attacks, two Iranian speedboats sank a U.S.-owned supertanker the first time in the 3½-year "tanker war" in the Gulf, shipping executives said.

The Esso Freeport, a 250,000-ton tanker owned by the U.S. Petroleum Company Exxon and flying the Bahamian flag, came under attack as it entered the Gulf of Hormuz with a load of 100,000 barrels of Arab crude oil, bound for the United States.

Regional officials of the U.S. Navy, asking not to be identified, said the ship was hit by four rocket-propelled grenades which caused "superficial" damage and casualties.

The ship later headed for the United Arab Emirates port of Ajlun to assess damage, one port said.

Radio monitors reported hearing the ship's master calling the Iranian warship, American ship, "as the speedboats bore in on him, and a few seconds later, we're being shot, we're being shot at."

The monitors said they heard a response from any warship. It was not known if any American vessels were in the immediate area.

J.S. warships escort only American-flagged vessels in the Gulf, but may also lend "humanitarian assistance" to other ships in distress. However, U.S. officials say this does not include intervening to stop attacks.

Other victims of Monday's attacks included the 36,512-ton tanker ship Lucy, owned by Maritime Overseas Corp., of New York, and the 123-ton, Greek-flag Filikon L, owned by the Piraeus-based Hellenic Shipping Enterprises. Shipping executives said a fourth, unidentified ship also re-

ported it was being attacked, about 15 minutes after the Filikon L and in the same area. The ship described the damage as minor and said it was proceeding, the executives said.

The Piraeus company also owns the supertanker Fortuneship L, the apparent target of Friday's Iraqi raid that hit the tugboat Salvalit, killing the Filipino crewmen.

A Soviet warship, escorting a Soviet tanker in the area, changed course to go to the aid of the Filikon L, which suffered a severe fire, according to shipping executives who spoke on condition they not be named.

They did not identify the warship, one of about six that Moscow maintains in the Gulf and nearby waters.

The sources said an Iranian warship operating in the area had earlier queried the Soviet tanker as to its cargo and destination, but broke off the transmission after being told the ship was under escort.

The Filikon L was headed for Singapore, also carrying Saudi oil from the Gulf port of Ras Tanurah, shipping sources said, when it was attacked off the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah at 1:30 p.m. (1030 GMT), about two hours after the Esso Freeport.

Lloyds shipping intelligence unit in London said the Lucy had been hit earlier, about 3 a.m. (2300 GMT Sunday) by three "fast patrol boats" just inside the Gulf, and later anchored off Dubai. The ship, under charter to a Japanese company, suffered damage to its starboard engine room.

In yet another report, Lloyds said the 584-ton Iranian tug Yusuf was hit by an Iraqi aircraft missile on Thursday night, with a second one a near-miss. It did not indicate if there were casualties or provide other details.

That raised to four the number of Iraqi attacks in the past week that have been confirmed by other, independent sources.

Baghdad reports only that its aircraft strike at "large naval targets," meaning tankers carrying Iranian oil, but does not identify them further.

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The inevitable link

THE Arab consensus reached on the Iran-Iraq war and the Palestinian question at the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman are inextricably linked and should be viewed within the context of the need to protect and defend Arab national security. In that context, resolutions on both issues complement one another, and only in their totality can they effectively contribute to strengthening the Arabs' regional and international standing, as well as foster the collective ability of the Arab World. For as the Arab leaders clearly realised and translated into constructive and firm resolutions, the urgent need to stop the war of attrition on the Arab World's eastern flank was essential not only to safeguard the security and the sovereignty of Iraq and the other Gulf states; but, also, to convert all Arab potentials to confront and tackle the major threat of the Israeli aggression and occupation.

In practical terms, the implementation of Arab resolutions on both issues should go hand in hand; for, as Arab and international efforts are expected to intensify and focus on achieving a prompt end to the Gulf crisis, there is an equally urgent need to continue effective support for the confrontation-line countries on the western front of Al Mashreq and, most significantly, of the steadfastness of our people in the Israeli-occupied territories. For and it will only be to the benefit of Israel and its supporters, if the Arab states failed to address the needs of the steadfastness of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation or to actively promote the idea of convening a United Nations-sponsored peace conference, in which all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), participate.

It has become clear to the Arab leaders that the Arab World can no longer afford to ignore any bleeding and sore spots on any of its flanks, since it contributes to the weakening of the Arab Order as a whole. This applies even more so when it comes to the Arab-Israeli conflict, which remains the heart of the Middle East crisis. But our hope and confidence is that the representatives of the Arab Nation, who rose to their historic responsibility in Amman, will pursue, in unison, their firm stands and translate these resolutions on both issues into solid action and constructive steps on the regional and international levels.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Summit outcome predicted

WE rightly predicted the outcome of the extraordinary Arab summit meeting before it was convened in Amman when we said that it will yield fruitful results. We were optimistic about the results in view of King Hussein's genuine and strenuous efforts for closing Arab ranks and his endeavours to rally the Arab countries and unify their ranks in the face of the common threats. The Arab leaders came to Amman with hope that this summit will achieve what it has been convened for, and certain that they will agree on a pan-Arab strategy that would end their differences and put them together in the same trench against enemy conspiracies. The summit achieved consensus and agreement among the Arab leaders because as the King said, the Arab leaders want to stop further deterioration in the Arab situation, and want to forge joint action, on the military, political and economic fronts. The post-summit era is therefore expected to witness a new stage in collective Arab work, and the coming stage is bound to see the Arabs working in favourable conditions to abort enemy plans directed against this nation. The Arab masses everywhere expressed deep satisfaction with the result of the Amman summit; and the friends of the Arabs were particularly relieved to see their friends once again mending fences and working together for the common good of the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour: Egypt welcomes restoration of ties

EGYPT has welcomed the Arab countries' decision to restore relations with Cairo after a break of eight years, and Egyptian leaders have made it clear that their country continues to be totally committed to the Arab causes. Needless to say that the restoration of diplomatic relations with Egypt was one of the fruits of the Arab summit held in Amman in the past week, and which paid tribute to Egypt and its historic role in confronting the enemies of the Arabs and defending Arab soil. The restoration of relations with Egypt can by no means weaken the Arabs; on the contrary, it will have a beneficial effect on the Arab stand. The re-opening of embassies and the hoisting of flags have not changed anything in inter-Arab relations and cooperation in economic, political and social fields which lasted throughout the past eight years. The return of full diplomatic relations does not only enhance each Arab country's feeling in its freedom to act on its own in matters serving the Arab Nation as a whole, but it also reaffirms the Arab countries' faith in the status and the role of Egypt and its people in matters of national destiny. We sincerely hope that the rest of the Arab countries will now declare their restoration of their full relations with Egypt which is hoped to resume its leading role to serve the Arab Nation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Press echoes summit success

THE Arab and foreign press have been echoing the success achieved by the Arab leaders at their Amman summit and paying tribute to the pan-Arab consensus which materialised. The success of the summit has no doubt restored the credibility in the Arab Order and Arab leaderships, something considered as a pre-requisite for inter-Arab cooperation on the military, economic and political levels. The Amman summit clearly diagnosed the ills of the Arab Nation and drew attention to the domestic and external challenges and threats and offered good indications that the leaders who arrived at a reconciliation will corroborate their close ties within a brotherly atmosphere. On the international level the Amman summit succeeded in winning more supporters for the Arabs and their just causes. Such consensus among Arab states will no doubt help nations of the world and world organisations to better understand the Arab issues and help in their solution.

Iran-contra report will criticise Reagan, revive controversy

By Sue Baker

Reuter

WASHINGTON — The Democratic-controlled Congress, in its final report on the Iran arms scandal, will probably lay most of the blame for the fiasco on President Reagan but leave key questions unresolved.

Principally, doubt will linger for the foreseeable future on whether Reagan knew about the possibly illegal diversion of profits from secret U.S. arms sales to Iran to Nicaragua's contra rebels.

The president at first said the deals were an attempt to open relations with Iran, but later acknowledged that they were direct swaps for U.S. hostages held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian forces.

The report, which is scheduled for release on Tuesday (Nov. 17), will be issued a year to the month after Reagan's worst foreign policy fiasco erupted. It will thrust the damaging affair back into the public spotlight at a time when the president has suffered a series of foreign and domestic setbacks.

The report will apportion blame for the scandal, determine which laws were broken or bent, and recommend legislative and other remedies in a bid to avoid a repetition.

But lawmakers predict the report's impact will be primarily political, fuelling a growing perception that Reagan has lost his grip on power and has little control of events.

"The most interesting part of the report for the American people will be our judgment of the responsibility of the president,"

said Lee Hamilton, an Indiana Democrat who chaired the special house committee created last January to probe what one legislator called "this sad and sordid tale."

The Senate set up a similar committee and together they interviewed some 500 people in private and reviewed more than 200,000 documents before calling 30 witnesses to testify during 11 weeks of televised hearings that stretched through Washington's hot, muggy summer.

The tale, like a good spy novel, was one of a tangled web of international intrigue, fanciful code words, secret Swiss bank accounts and clandestine meetings in European cities and in Tehran.

It involved what Hamilton called a "secret government within the government," run by a tightly knit circle of top aides in the White House National Security Council (NSC) and the late CIA Director William Casey, who hid their activities from senior cabinet members for fear of opposition.

The report was expected to describe how the president's men misled or lied to Congress about the affair and attempted a cover-up in the immediate aftermath of its exposure.

While Hamilton declined to detail the report's findings in advance, angry Republicans have already denounced what they view as its slant against Reagan.

Republicans were particularly incensed by what they said was the report's implication that Reagan may have known about

the possibly illegal diversion of Iran arms sales profits to the Nicaraguan contra rebels — despite his denials.

"It's more than an interference, it's an implication," of Reagan's guilt, complained Orrin Hatch, a conservative Utah Republican who was one of Reagan's staunchest supporters on the Senate panel.

Republicans and Democrats alike were shocked by the disclosures in early November 1986 that Reagan had sold arms to Tehran at the same time he was urging other nations to isolate Iran as a "terrorist" nation.

But the affair became a full-blown scandal last November 25 when Attorney General Edwin Meese revealed the diversion of profits.

Hatch, in a recent interview, said the report implicates the president by casting doubt on

Admiral John Poindexter's pivotal testimony that he alone, without telling the president, ordered his deputy, Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, to divert the funds to the contras at a time when Congress had banned such aid.

Poindexter, Reagan's national security adviser during most of the scandal, testified, "The buck stopped here with me."

But some Democrats said they doubted Poindexter — a man with a reputation for taking orders, not giving them — would have embarked on such a course without Reagan's approval.

They suggested he was protecting the president. They also said the admiral set a record for the most questions — 184 in five days of testimony — answered by: "I don't recall."

According to Hatch, the president is damned in the report

either way because it contains, "language along the lines that if he didn't know, he should have known."

Also criticised in the report, according to aides, are North, a gun-ho marine whose passion, patriotism and boyish good looks briefly captured American hearts during his six-day testimony, former national security adviser Robert McFarlane, and Richard Secord, a retired air force officer who ran the contra supply network.

All six Republicans on the 15-member House committee, and two of the more conservative of the five Republicans on the 11-member Senate panel have added their minority views in a separate part of the massive report, whose 1,300 typed pages will be condensed to about 450 in its final printed form.

The report, some three months in the making, was completed and formally approved by the committees on November 5, several weeks behind schedule. Before being printed, it must undergo final declassification checks by the White House.

Reagan, who flatly denied initial news reports of the arms sales and withheld major details in subsequent statements, eventually accepted responsibility and said he allowed his concern for Americans held hostage by pro-Iranian forces in Lebanon to lead him astray and make mistakes.

The president at first said selling arms to Iran was part of an attempt to open strategic relations with Tehran. He later acknowledged it was a direct arms-

for-hostages swap.

The report is also expected to determine the extent of Reagan's involvement in White House efforts to aid the contras, through third-country solicitations and a network of private donors, during a 1984-1986 congressional aid ban.

Some of the report's likely recommendations — a 48-hour congressional notification in advance of all but the most urgent covert actions — are already being implemented.

"It's going to be a very long time before a national security adviser to the president says, 'the buck stops with me,'" Hamilton said.

He also said "complete personnel changes — at the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) and at the White House" — mandated by the scandal have already been made.

Hamilton said the congressional probe, which cost \$4 million, has however left a few "loose strands," which it will be up to independent counsel Lawrence Walsh, who is conducting a separate criminal probe of the affair, to tie up in court.

He also said the investigation operated under "some extraordinary handicaps," including the absence of key witness Casey who died of a brain tumour last May before he could testify, and "a paper trail that was completely destroyed."

Poindexter and North testified that they destroyed Iran-contra documents — in North's case, he destroyed so many that a shredder jammed.



Sri Lanka delivers on autonomy but army still key to peace

By Jeremy Clift

Reuter

COLOMBO — President Junius Jayawardene has delivered his side of a bargain with India to end four years of ethnic bloodshed in Sri Lanka by pushing through laws to give the Tamil minority limited autonomy.

But it is still anyone's guess when elections can be held to implement the autonomy plan, both Indian and Sri Lankan officials say. Until then, Sri Lanka remains explosive.

India, with 20,000 troops on the island, is determined to underpin a political settlement by wiping out the Tamil guerrilla threat once and for all.

After crushing the Tamil rebel stronghold of Jaffna in the north, Indian commanders have shifted their attention to eliminating pockets of heavily armed Tamil Tiger guerrillas along the eastern coastline.

This could take another month, Indian commanders say. But with the Tigers slipping into the dense jungle the danger of Indian troops getting bogged down in a prolonged counter-insurgency operation remains strong. Western diplomats believe.

And with Jayawardene facing a backlash from hardline members of the Sinhalese majority in the south, the situation is still volatile.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who agreed on the autonomy plan with Jayawardene in July, said he was stabbed in the back by the most powerful and extreme of the Tamil rebel groups, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"They deliberately set out to wreck the agreement because they were unable or unwilling to make the transition from militancy to the democratic political process," Gandhi told parliament in New Delhi.

He said the Tigers had become beasts "coercing old men, women and children to act as shields, using innocent children as human bombs, murdering prisoners, and booby-trapping houses of the people of Jaffna on whose behalf they claim to be fighting."

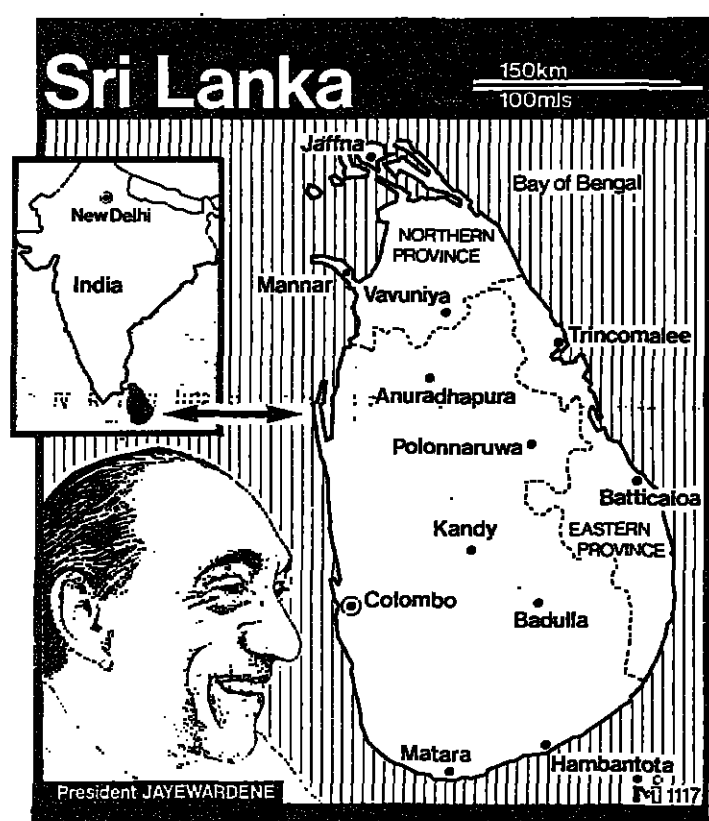
India, which has a large Tamil population of its own, had secured from Sri Lanka almost everything that the Tigers had demanded but they had rejected peace, Gandhi said.

Now Indian officials here feel there is no alternative but to carry the military offensive to its logical conclusion unless the Tigers yield to pressure for a ceasefire and join the political process.

The devolution package will set up a series of provincial councils across the country giving limited self-rule to Tamil-dominated areas of the north and east. The Sri Lankan government sees it as the last chance for peace.

Legislation clearing the way for the councils was approved by parliament by the required two-thirds majority on Thursday.

But Jayawardene faced a storm of violent protest from Sinhalese radicals and criticism from the main opposition Freedom Party.



It said the 81-year-old president had turned Sri Lanka into a pawn of India.

Freedom Party parliamentary leader Anura Bandaranaike said the autonomy deal would split the country. It would give the Tamils, who make up just 13 per cent of the population, 30 per cent of the land and 60 per cent of its coastline, he declared.

Hardline Buddhist students and monks staged demonstrations and hunger strikes, asserting that Buddhism, the country's

main religion, was under threat from the Hindu Tamils.

At least 150 people died across Sri Lanka this week as parliament debated the controversial autonomy legislation.

Police pinned responsibility for some of the bloodshed on an underground Sinhalese Marxist group opposed to the autonomy plan. Police said People's Liberation Front detonated a car bomb that killed 32 people and wounded 106 in Colombo last week.

No front-runner in Korean presidential race

By Barry Renfrew

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — A front-runner has yet to emerge in the presidential race that could be the most important election in South Korea's brief and turbulent history.

Many Koreans see the Dec. 16 election as a chance to establish full democracy in a country dominated by authoritarian governments since its creation in 1948. They also hope it will end the violence that has dominated Korean politics and clear the way for the nation's first peaceful transfer of power.

"The upcoming presidential election is a rare opportunity for the nation to be midwife at the birth of a new government whose legitimacy will not be challenged," the Korea Times said in a Nov. 10 editorial.

But the government is mounting a major campaign to retain power and the opposition's once seemingly assured hopes of victory have been overshadowed by internal divisions and rival candidates.

The campaign has centred on who can ensure democracy, and the government's authoritarian record.

Opposition candidates accuse government candidate Roh Tae-woo, a former general, of seeking to continue military-backed rule. They stress Roh's key role in helping fellow ex-general President Chun Doo-hwan seize power in 1980.

"We are standing at the crossroads of history where we either fall into the trap of prolonged military rule or we open a new age which will lead to peace and unification," said opposition

candidate Kim Dae-jung.

Roh, who was picked by Chun, has fought back hard, insisting he alone can ensure a peaceful transition to democracy and continued stability and economic prosperity.

The government campaign portrays Roh as a moderate who at the height of anti-government riots in June insisted that Chun give in to opposition demands for the first direct presidential elections in 16 years.

While a majority of people are thought to oppose the government, the opposition's election hopes have been hurt by the decision of top leaders Kim Young-sam and Kim Dae-jung to both run for president even though they will split the opposition vote.

Many opposition supporters are dismayed or angry over the split. Some political observers say it could generate an electoral backlash.

"These Kims have betrayed the people and democracy. They think only of themselves," said one opposition supporter in a typical comment.

Little attention has been paid to other issues in the campaign and differences between the candidates on major issues are not great.

The major candidates back continued expansion of the powerful economy while differing to some extent on the degree of government control. All are strongly opposed to archival Communist North Korea and favour close ties with the United States. They all promise to expand social welfare programmes for the poor and the working classes.

Roh is seeking the country's strong conservative vote, which is especially big in rural areas and in the business world, with his promise to stability. He also seeks to appeal to voters who fear new turmoil could trigger intervention by the armed forces.

Kim Dae-jung is seen as the radical candidate because of the years he spent in prison or under house arrest for fighting authoritarian governments. He champions the poor and the working classes and has strong support among liberals and dissidents.

Kim Young-sam, the other top opposition leader, is seen as a centrist, stressing moderation and reconciliation. His support lies among the middle classes, white collar workers and other moderate groups. Some observers say he may have the best chance.

Former Prime Minister Kim Jong-pil and two minor candidates are unlikely to have a major impact. Some observers suggest Kim Jong-pil could cost Roh some conservative votes, but his campaign appears to have attracted little support.

While watching the presidential campaign with rapt attention, many people are also watching two groups that have dominated Korean politics in the past — radical students and the armed forces.

Radical students long have been a potent force in Korea and the demonstrations they spearheaded in June played a key role in forcing Chun to accept direct elections. The radicals rejected the elections as a compromise with the government, but so far have attracted little support for their call for new demonstrations.

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T.V. showman scandalises Italy

By Paul Holmes
Reuter

ROME — Midway through a variety show the presenter stops to denounce the company that sponsors the show, a result of the show's success, a mass protest. It is a television producers' nightmare.

But the nightmare becomes reality every Saturday night in Italy on state television's controversial live variety show *Fantastico*. Now furious politicians are insisting it stop and the producers are keeping their fingers crossed it will.

At the centre of the storm is singer-actor Adriano Celentano, the country's highest-paid performer, whose unorthodox behaviour has fascinated Italians ever since he woke them up to rock and roll in the 1960's.

In the two months since he took charge of *Fantastico*, in between the song and dance Celentano has:

- Accused the commercial sponsors, a leading soap powder manufacturer, of "homicide by pollution";

- Branded the nation's political parties an elitist clique which treats the public as idiots;

- Campaigned against nuclear

power by declaring that *Fantastico* wouldn't be worth producing in 20 years time because "there will only be 28 of us around" after an atomic war.

In his most controversial outburst, accompanied by bloody film of baby seals being clubbed to death, Celentano told 11 million viewers on the eve of November 8 referendums on nuclear power and legal reform to write "hunting is against love" on their ballot slips.

Few followed the advice, not least because the show's producers made Celentano withdraw it. State television, RAI, also broadcast repeated warnings that voters would be invalidating their ballots if they did what the singer said.

The incident has opened Celentano, 49, to possible criminal charges for infringing a ban on campaigning on the eve of a vote and united most political parties against him.

"Celentano has gone too far, he has got to be sacked," said Liberal Party parliamentarian Paolo Battistuzzi.

An editorial in the influential newspaper *Corriere Della Sera* suggested Celentano should stick to singing or be invited to take a rest. "He has lost touch with

reality," it said.

RAI, which is closely controlled by parliament, has also been accused of breaching its obligations as a public broadcasting service by allowing the entertainer a platform for his views in the three-hour show.

It now hopes to have put the furore behind it after fining Celentano 200 million lire (\$160,000) and threatening automatic dismissal if he steps out of line again.

Celentano, whose fee for the four-month series is reported to be eight billion lire (\$6.5 million), has promised to match the fine with a donation of his own to research into the AIDS virus. He has also undertaken to submit his scripts to the producers in advance.

"Celentano's show is a novelty, for better or worse," RAI's Director-General Biagio Agnes said after the compromise was struck. "Relations with Celentano have turned out to be more difficult to manage than we imagined," he added.

RAI hired Celentano to host *Fantastico* after its last presenter, Pippo Baudo, left for a rival show, *Festival*, on the Canale 5 network of private broadcasting

Magnate Silvio Berlusconi.

In the fierce ratings war between the two programmes, *Fantastico* has been streets ahead of *Festival*, which attracts about six million viewers on a Friday night. Celentano's regular weekly "Monologue" is part of the new unorthodox approach and is intended primarily to woo a younger audience.

While song, dance and comedy are still part of the routine, gone are the slick suits and smooth talk of Baudo and most of the big prize money games.

Viewers are instead asked by a sometimes unshaven Celentano to donate money to build a village in Africa and help other people's dreams come true rather than their own.

The show attracted more than 13 million viewers on its opening night and though ratings have slipped to about 11 million *Fantastico* still draws about half the Italian television audience.

Critics describe it as the sort of show you either love or hate. Some ordinary Italians are less subtle.

"Talk about changing channels," said one man from Milan. "It's enough to make you want to change nationalities."

Woody Allen discusses films, friends, and fatherhood

By Matt Wolf
The Associated Press

LONDON — Woody Allen, the American actor and director who about to become a first-time father, discussed his films and hopes for a baby girl in a TV interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. that appeared on Friday.

"I hope it's a she... that would be very important to me," Allen, 41, said of the child he and actress Mia Farrow, his longtime companion, are expecting. No due date has been announced.

The normally reclusive Allen, whose honours include a double in Academy awards in 1978 for writing and directing "Annie Hall," appeared on what the BBC called his first British television interview in seven years. The work is screening nine Allen films between now and Christmas.

The hourlong show, "Woody Allen: Love, Death, Sex, and Fathers Arising," was taped one afternoon in June at Allen's New York apartment.

Professor Christopher Frayling, the interviewer, is head of the department of cultural history at London's Royal College of Art.

"I don't feel I've made a great film yet in my life," Allen said, describing his standard as classics like Vittorio de Sica's "The Bicycle Thief" and Jean Renoir's "La Grande Illusion."

"I'd like to be remembered as someone who made at least one, not one or two, really great films," he said.

Throughout the interview, Allen was his own harshest critic, giving his sharpest swipes for his artist films.

He said the swinging 1965 sex comedy "What's New, Pussycat?" was an "undeserved" success.

His 1969 "Take the Money and Run," with Allen as the bumbling criminal Virgil Starkwell, suffered from "gags of any sort, of any kind."

His 1971 "Bananas," in which Allen played a hypochondriac en-

snared in a Latin American uprising, was marred by "an infantile type of funniness."

Even "Manhattan," his sophisticated 1979 film about a black-and-white city and the emotional colours of the people who inhabit it, got its knocks.

"What carries you through 'Manhattan' for me is more the style than anything else," he said. "I would do 'Manhattan' differently now. It's not a film I wouldn't do today, but I would do it differently."

Allen emphasised his love for weighty material and his desire to be taken seriously, despite his fans' insistence — satirised in his 1980 film "Stardust Memories" — that he make funnier movies.

"I don't mean to downgrade comedy — I think it's a wonderful thing — but I put the other (drama) on a higher plane, myself. I think my films have been good to the degree that I could make them more serious," said Allen, adding that he was drawn to tragic playwrights like August Strindberg and Eugene O'Neill and preferred Shakespeare's drama to his comedies.

He said "Hannah and Her Sisters," his 1986 critical and financial success, was "more 'up' and optimistic than I had intended, and consequently was very popular."

But the optimism exacted a price: "It's only optimistic in the sections (where) I failed," he said.

He said his favourite film was "The Purple Rose of Cairo," in which Mia Farrow plays a woman seduced by a screen actor who steps out of a movie to woo her.

"The object of the movie was very simply to show that we all have to choose between reality and fantasy, and we're of course forced to choose reality; the other way lies madness," Allen said.

He praised both Diane Keaton and Mia Farrow, actresses with whom he has been romantically linked and whose careers he has enriched.

He called Ms. Keaton a "hilarious comedienne," and said he could not have written her title



Woody Allen



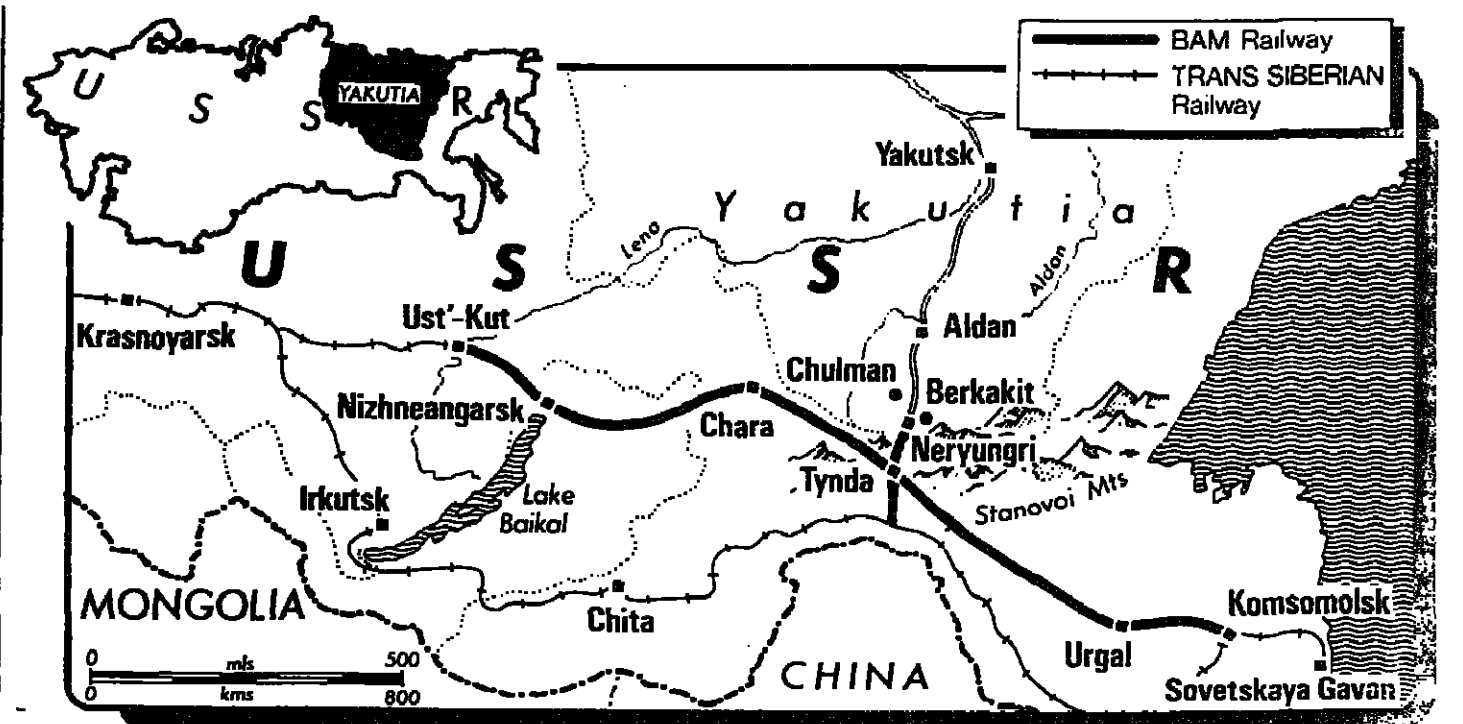
Wallace Shawn and Mia Farrow in Woody Allen's latest film Radio Days (File photo)

character in "Annie Hall" without her "because I was taking things directly from things I'd heard her say."

Ms. Farrow received particular kudos for her work as a gun moll in the 1984 movie "Broadway Danny Rose." "She was great in it... She was wonderful from the first day," Allen said.

But despite their personal attachment, Allen said he and Farrow did have their differences.

"She is surrounded by kids and pets; I live by myself across the park (Central Park)," he said. "I don't have to be there when the diapers are changed or anything really awful happens."



Siberia: For youth, a land of opportunity

By Carol J. Williams
The Associated Press

TYNDA, USSR — Soviet young people are chasing a development boom into Siberia, braving its frigid hardships in exchange for the chance of a more promising future and higher rewards than those who stay behind.

Heeding the call of Komsomol, the Communist Party's youth organisation, tens of thousands of university graduates each spring are pledging their first years of work to the taming of Siberia, which together with the Soviet far east covers 13.7 million square kilometres — one and a half times the size of the United States.

Some come for the money. Salaries plus hardship bonuses average 400 rubles (\$635) a month, twice the national average for skilled industrial workers. Others come for the relative freedom they find 4,800 or more kilometres from Moscow and the bureaucracy that directs industry in the nation's European regions.

But their venture into a resource-rich but dormant land — notorious for forced labour camps and penal colonies since the time of the Russian czars — is also a vital part of Mikhail S. Gorbachev's plan to transform the Soviet Union into an economic superpower as well as a military one.

While it still isn't a yuppie lifestyle, 5,000 kms east-southeast of Moscow and just north of Manchuria in China, "it's a good place to start your life, in a new place where you can make a difference," said Vera Grinvald, a hydro engineer in her mid-30s and a mother of three children.

Despite their higher wages, many of Tynda's new pioneers live in shabby, concrete housing blocks propped on pillars drilled into the permafrost of this frontier boomtown.

Those working on the railroad live in insulated old railroad cars and construction shacks in a sort of circular trailer town that houses nearly half of Tynda's population of 63,000.

A maze of rutted asphalt roads connects hilltop highrises with a skirt of shantytowns, and in between the buildings are unplanted stretches of ground that freeze solid in winter and become seas of mud in two months of summer.

For active young people, there isn't much to do after work but play basketball or go cross-country skiing.

But a 17-year-old youth who gave his name only as Alexander said, "I don't feel isolated here. I have friends and a social life in Siberia. I don't have to live in Moscow to know who Michael Jackson is."

And simple things become pleasures. "It's too hard to explain if you haven't lived through it," said Yelena Ivanovich of the local Communist Party council. "After having water delivered to barrels outside our doors for a year, when we got running water to our street, we thought we were the most fortunate people in the world."

Tynda is the capital and midpoint of the Baikal-Amur mainline railroad (BAM), the largest of Soviet "hero projects," a 1,938-mile (3,118-km) trail of track blazed through virgin land the government has defined as the next economic heartland.

By the year 2000, the railroad and the enterprises it will carry eastward are expected to make Siberia the nation's fourth major industrial zone, joining the Volga River Basin, the Ural Mountains and the Donetsk Valley.

BAM, hailed as "the project of the century," is intended to take people and tools into the Siberian frontier and transport the region's minerals, ores, gold and precious stones out to the western and southern areas of the country, where 90 per cent of the population lives.

"We build BAM, and BAM

builds us," said Yelena Fedorets, the young wife of a railroad builder, reciting one of the local slogans and saying she doesn't mind the difficult conditions.

Galina Maslennikova, now 38, moved here with her husband and two sons five years ago from the Ukraine to work on the railroad.

"The project was under way and workers were needed, and we wanted to do or part," she said.

Olga Chukova, an economist in her mid 30s, has three sons and a spacious four-room apartment. She and her husband came to Siberia 12 years ago.

"I never planned to stay long," she said. "But once I started to work, I got to like it here and now I don't plan to go anywhere else in my life."

Despite stalwarts such as Olga Chukova, the government is still trying to establish a stable work force in the region if it is to tap Siberia's wealth. BAM's director, Valery A. Gorbunov, said 30 per cent of the railroad's employees leave the project each year.

But Vyacheslav Seliverstov, deputy director of the Siberian Economics Institute, said in an interview that 30 million people now live in Siberia and he suggested the normal population growth — with a birthrate 20 per cent higher than the national average — will provide an adequate work force for the future.

One is Tatyana Manayeva, 29, a deputy director of a dormitory, where the average age of the 578 residents is 28.

She said she came to Ust-Ilimsk six years ago with two other single women from Kazakhstan and has a one-room apartment of her own — a rarity

for single women living in Moscow or Leningrad. "My heart drew me here," Ms. Manayeva said. "From Grammar school on I heard so much about Siberia and Ust-Ilimsk. It all sounded so romantic and adventurous."

What stands out in Ust-Ilimsk is the number of women — 20 per cent more of them than men.

"We have a surplus of women, and we have trouble finding jobs for them now," said Andrei V. Andreyev of the city's Communist Party council. "We've begun construction of a health institute and some sewing enterprises to provide more work for women."

One reason for the surplus is that half the marriages registered in the Soviet Union end in divorce, and many women raising children on their own find it difficult to get by in the European Soviet cities to the west. Wages for women workers back west average about 120 rubles (\$190) a month, but in Ust-Ilimsk the average for women and men is 350 rubles (\$555).

"Here a single woman can support herself and even one or two children, and we are seeing a lot of them coming to Ust-Ilimsk," Andreyev said.

Ust-Ilimsk is growing by more than 5,000 residents a year, and its population should grow to 200,000 by the turn of the century, Andreyev said.

Ust-Ilimsk is better off than many newer Siberian settlements, where housing is critically short and social services almost nonexistent. But it is not without its problems.

It has too few doctors, and good clothing seldom makes its way this far east.

Newcomers, even families, often live in communal housing or dormitories for a couple of years before permanent housing can be arranged.

"Conditions are OK here, but of course we want an apartment of our own," said Galina Makovetskaya, a 31-year-old Ukrainian who came here with her husband a year ago. They and their 6-month-old daughter, Masha, live in two tiny rooms in a concrete-block dormitory built 15 years ago.

A higher-than-average birthrate among the city's young and relatively affluent population has flooded the education system, forcing the school day into two sessions.

Vast land with few people

HERE are some facts and figures on Soviet Siberia:

The land — The borders of Siberia are ill-defined, but the region is generally agreed to consist of the Asian land mass east of the Ural Mountains and northeast of Central Asia. Together with the Soviet far east, along the Pacific coast, Siberia covers 13.7 million square kilometres. The land is mostly taiga — rolling forests of evergreens and birch trees — with the tundra ice desert spreading across the north and the Arctic circle, and grassy steppes to the southwest.

The people — The 30 million people living in Siberia represent most of the 100 or more nationalities that comprise the Soviet Union. They are concentrated along the trans-Siberian railroad that runs along the southern border.

The economy — Aside from railroading, Siberians are engaged in heavy industries like machine building, chemical and fuel processing and mining. About 30 per cent of the people are engaged in farming. The traditional pursuits of fur trapping and fishing remain important to the economy, but they have been outpaced over the past 30 years by heavy industry.

History — Siberia is an ancient land where hunters, trappers and fishermen have lived for centuries. But its emergence as an industrial base has occurred only over the last 40 years. Siberia was a land of exile during Czarist times and remains so today, but it became a land of refuge during World War II when major industries were relocated there during the Nazi occupation of much of European sectors in the west.

Entrepreneur institute tries to build new tycoons

By Seema Sirohi
The Associated Press

HMEDABAD, India — Bharat Bhatt's job takes him across long rivers and on lengthy hikes to remote, backward districts of India to meet villagers tucked away from the pace of modern life.

Bhatt is not a missionary or sociologist studying rural ways. He works for a programme that as become a Third World model for finding and developing private entrepreneurs in unlikely places.

The major idea behind the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India is to help would-be tycoons set up industries in places where opportunities are few.

"We are training employment-generating persons, not employment-seeking people. We train them to be on their own, to take risks," said Ashok K. Sinha, a faculty member at the institute.

The institute in western Gujarat State — which the World Bank calls the only facility of its kind in Asia — does much more than just teach business skills.

It identifies likely prospects, instructs them in the problems they will face with banks and

government bureaucracy, and then helps them get started.

The Institute in Ahmedabad has 23 faculty members who train "motivators" like Bhatt to go into villages to spot latent talent. Money comes from a fund of 20 million rupees (about \$1.5 million) donated by private and government financial institutions.

The institute also works with local entrepreneurial agencies in other Indian states, and has conducted workshops in 37 countries, including Australia, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Kenya, Senegal, Mauritius, Zambia, Zaire and Ghana.

"The concept of enterprise seems to be the only answer to development. There is no way out for this country except to create a great deal of self-generating employment," says Vihari G. Patel, the institute's director.

"Other developing countries have realised this. They want ownership patterns to change from expatriate ownerships to the local people."

Patel is credited with pioneering the training for entrepreneurs in India.

Patel emphasised that development is a long-term process.

"For real impact, we have to work backward. The first attack

has to be the family where children's enterprise must be encouraged," he said.

In India, there are also special problems, he said.

"The whole bureaucracy has to be reoriented. This jungle of controls has to go. We must not just simplify procedures, but abolish them."

A man who wants to start a business in India may have to go to 43 government agencies to procure the necessary licences, loans, water, electricity and land.

The convoluted bureaucratic procedures claim their toll, and some would-be entrepreneurs give up at initial stages. But the institute says its success rate is about 60 per cent.

The institute began as a small experiment in 1979 and opened with its present national scope in May 1983. It has since trained 78 Indians and 42 foreigners to be "motivators and trainers."

The institute's trainers use an "entrepreneurship development programme," or EDP, a system of testing would-be businessmen and teaching accounting, motivation and management techniques.

The institute has conducted demonstration EDPs, paid for by local banks and other financial institutions, in almost all of India's 25 states, including some with no history of industrial activity.

Gujarat State, the institute's home, has long been a centre of businessmen and traders.

The trainers often face unusual problems that they must overcome with their own ingenuity.

In Arunachal Pradesh State in the remote northeast, a trainer was faced with about 35 tribespeople he collected for an EDP, few of whom spoke a common language. They belonged to 14 different tribes.

The trainer ended up teaching accounting with leaves and beads. B.P. Muri, one of the faculty members and a trainer himself, said: "You are like a missionary yourself. You get so involved that all the personal problems become secondary."

Mahendra Mashru's story is one of the successful cases.

An unemployed village youth in Gujarat, Mashru wanted to do something different, but didn't know what. He came across an institute trainer after reading an advertisement and was selected to receive entrepreneurship training.

He started manufacturing a mouth freshener in 1979, and by 1984 had a turnover of 1.4 million rupees (\$107,000).

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Lendl crushes Jarryd for 7th crown of year

The victory raised Czechoslovak's earnings for 1987 to \$1m

WEMBLEY, England (AP) — Ivan Lendl has played tennis all over the world, on all different surfaces. But he likes nothing better than hitting the ball on his private hard court back home in Greenwich, Connecticut.

There, Lendl says, "I play my best, shots no-one ever sees." The 27-year-old Czechoslovak, the world's top-ranked player since September, 1985, added \$75,000 to his fortune Sunday when he beat Sweden's Anders Jarryd 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 to capture the \$375,000 Benson and Hedges Championships.

It was Lendl's seventh Grand Prix title of the year, and it took his earnings for 1987 to just under \$1 million.

The money didn't seem to matter to Lendl, who quipped, "it'll probably mostly go the taxman." But the work was good.

"I don't enjoy the travel," Lendl conceded. "The most fun I really have is playing on my own court in the back yard. That's where I play my best tennis. I wish I could play some tournaments there."

"You would see some shots you never see, like passing shots from incredible positions. Sometimes, I even wonder how the ball drops in. You are more grooved on the court you know best."

He may have been several thousand miles from home, but the court at the Wembley arena also seemed tailor-made for Lendl as he crushed Jarryd in a one-sided exhibition of power and precision tennis.

He dropped only 17 points on serve against the Swede, the world's 16th-rated player, and gave up only two breakpoints, both of which he saved.

Surprisingly, Lendl said he did not like the court, despite winning the title at Wembley three times in the past four years.

"It's hard to explain, but I don't really like this surface," he said. "It does not really suit my game."

As a result, Lendl will not be coming back next year, preferring to play in a new star-studded \$1.5 million exhibition event being staged simultaneously in Stuttgart, West Germany.

Sources said that tournament was also likely to be played on supreme, but Lendl said he was not sure of the surface.

From Wembley, Lendl will take a short rest before competing in an exhibition tournament. Then he winds up his year by defending his masters title in New York.

Lendl said he has played too much tennis this year and that in 1988, he will play six fewer Grand Prix events, restricting himself to just 12.

"I've kept going for two reasons this year. To fulfill my commitments to the Grand Prix, and to make sure I don't slack off and start paying for it at the Australian Open in January."

"That, and Wimbledon, are two tournaments I would still very much like to win."

ANCIENT OLYMPIA, Greece (Agencies) — The Olympic torch, lighted by the Sun's rays at the sanctuary that staged the ancient Olympics, headed to Athens Monday on its way to the 1988 Winter Games in Calgary, Canada.

A Greek runner, Stelios Bisbas, 19, started what Canadian officials called "the longest torch run in history" Sunday by jogging one kilometre with the flame held aloft in one hand and olive branch symbolising peace in the other.

At the nearby village of Platynos officials transferred the flame to a special Canadian-miner's lamp for a 40-minute flight to Athens.

"This flame's magic will help us carry the spirit of the Olympic Games to millions of Canadians," said Bill Pratt, president of the Calgary Games organising committee, at a brief ceremony in the marble Panathenaic Stadium in Athens. The stadium hosted the first modern Olympics in 1896.

The flame will arrive in St. Johns, Newfoundland, on Tuesday to start an 18,000 kilometre relay to Calgary across mountains and wintry prairie lands.

Pratt said the torch will be carried by more than 7,000 runners by plane and on skis, by dog-sled and "skidoo" — a Canadian-made snowmobile.

Because of cloudy weather, Sunday's flame kindling ceremony in ancient Olympia was called off. Instead, the Olympic torch was ignited from a reserve flame lighted during Saturday's rehearsal by sunlight reflected in a concave mirror.

"We've developed a special fuel made from Canadian oil to keep the flame just burning slowly during the long relay," said Pratt, who attended Sunday's ceremony in a white cowboy hat and white boots embossed with the Calgary Games logo.

Pratt said that more than 2,600 athletes from 60 countries have registered for the games, starting Feb. 13. He said Calgary hopes to earn a \$46-million profit on its \$800-million outlay for the Olympics.

The city famed for its annual rodeo show, the Calgary stampede, was selected to host the 15th winter Olympics after more than 30 years as a candidate and seven rejections.

It's the first time Canada has staged a winter games, although Montreal hosted the 1976 summer Olympics and Toronto is bidding for the 1996 summer games.

But Athens is the favourite for the centennial modern Olympics, according to Culture Minister Melina Mercouri, who is leading the Greek Olympic campaign.

"We shall have the Olympic Games in 1996," Mercouri said at Sunday's ceremony. "But I shall be at Calgary to applaud and wish them success with all my heart."

The original Olympic Games were staged every four years from 776 B.C. to 261 A.D. without interruption. They were revived by a French aristocrat, Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

The sanctuary at ancient Olympia in southwestern Greece is often confused with Mount Olympus, the country's highest peak and home of the ancient gods of Greek mythology. But Mount Olympus, in northern Greece, isn't linked with the Olympic Games.

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Chicago Bears still have pride — coach

DENVER (AP) — If the fire has gone out of the Chicago Bears, as coach Mike Ditka suggests, the embers at least are still hot.

"We're still smoldering," quarterback Jim McMahon said. "We're 7-1. We just haven't been executing properly the last couple of weeks. This team still has a lot of pride, and we want to get back on top."

Despite their troubles, the Bears have come from behind to win their last three games, rallying from fourth-quarter deficits of 12, 14 and eight points.

Chicago's opponent Monday night is the Denver Broncos, a schizophrenic team that can't seem to find itself. The Broncos looked awesome in victories over Seattle and Detroit, but they looked awful in losses to Minnesota and Buffalo and in a tie

against Green Bay. The only thing smoldering about the Broncos is the temper of coach Dan Reeves. A sluggish, mistake-filled 21-14 loss to Buffalo last Sunday caused Reeves to make some lineup changes for the Bears' game in Denver.

"It was a very poor performance in every phase," he said. "I don't think the effort was very good."

The loss gave the Broncos a 4-3-1 record, and put them 2.5 games behind San Diego in the AFC West. "We've dug ourselves a deep hole," Reeves said. "We have to get started digging our way out this week."

Ditka insists Denver's record is deceiving. "Being 4-3-1 is not totally realistic with the strike and all," he said. "They had some unfortunate games in Green Bay and

Buffalo where the weather was a big factor. "Denver can beat us. We probably have used up our allotment of miracles. We can continue to play the way we have against some teams and eke it out. But Denver isn't one of them. It's going to be a real interesting game."

Ditka gives the offensive edge to Denver and the defensive edge to Chicago, with the special teams about even.

Denver, behind quarterback John Elway, ranks first in the AFC in offence, averaging 366 yards per game. Chicago is averaging 313 yards.

On defence, Chicago, a former super bowl champ, is second in the NFC, including a No. 1 ranking in the National Football League (NFL) in rushing defence.

ALBANY, New York (AP) — The Soviet Union, led by 286-pound (130-kilogramme) Aleksander Karelin, swept to its eighth consecutive World Cup of Greco-Roman wrestling title by topping Cuba and the United States Sunday.

Karelin, 20, built up a 13-0 lead and eventually won by a disqualification over 1984 Olympic gold medalist Jeff Blatnick of the United States to cap the Soviet team's 9-1 victory over the United States in the final round of competition.

Cuba finished second and the United States third in the two-day competition at the state university at Albany.

For the Soviet Union, the competition reaffirmed its superiority in the sport. In both a 9-1 victory over a team from Scandinavia in the morning and the victory over the United States, the Soviets' only losses came in 125-pound (57-kilogramme) weight class because of forfeits.

The Soviet entry in that category, Nukh Yakhyaev, suffered a partial dislocation of the shoulder in a match against Cuba Saturday.

To catch the Soviets and Cubans, the United States needs more training, said U.S. coach Joe Demeo.

"We need to be training at a higher level," Demeo said. "It's early in the season for them (the wrestlers). The Soviets sent their number two guys who are hungry and training hard."

Soviet national wrestling coach Rustan Kazakov, an Olympic gold medalist in 1972, attributed the Soviet success to superior coaching.

"We have a great number of excellent coaches in our country," Kazakov said. "They are really experienced in teaching details, strategy and preparation."

Monday's match, played within the national Premier League Championships (Photo by Yussef Al 'Allan)

NAVATILOVA DOWNED SOVIET TEENAGER FOR 8TH SLIMS TITLE

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In the doubles championship, Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany, and Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, the top seeds, downed the United States' Zina Garrison and Lori McNeil 6-4, 6-3.

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CHICAGO (AP) — It was somewhat of a surprise to Martina Navratilova that she was facing 16-year-old from the Soviet Union in the championship of the \$150,000 Virginia Slims of Chicago tennis tournament. But it didn't shake her game.

"I was a little more creative from the baseline," Navratilova said, after beating unseeded Natalia Zvereva 6-1, 6-2, on Sunday to capture her eighth Chicago title.

In the doubles championship, Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany, and Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, the top seeds, downed the United States' Zina Garrison and Lori McNeil 6-4, 6-3.

The top-seeded Navratilova played a baseline game with long volleys. She was able to score several points on well-placed drop shots and passing shots while executing outstanding lobs

Monday's match, played within the national Premier League Championships (Photo by Yussef Al 'Allan)

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Iraq to export electricity to Turkey and Kuwait

BAGHDAD (OPECNA) — Iraq is to export electric power to Turkey from next month, initially at a rate of 400 million kilowatt per hour (KWH), according to Iraqi Heavy Industries Minister Abdul Tawab Mulla Huwais.

The minister said technical arrangements relating to the installation of power lines and transforming stations had been completed by the two countries in preparation for the commissioning of the first stage.

The project, he said, included two stages — 70 megawatt with a capacity of 400 million KWH and 500 megawatt with a capacity of three million KWH.

Technical studies were underway in the two countries for the implementation of the second stage, the minister added.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7405/15	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3155/65	Canadian dollar
	1.7158/65	West German marks
	1.9325/35	Dutch guilders
	1.4130/30	Swiss francs
	35.83/86	Belgian francs
	5.7935/60	French francs
	1257/1258	Italian lire
	137.15/25	Japanese yen
	6.1525/75	Swedish crowns
	6.4850/4950	Norwegian crowns
	6.6100/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	461.30/461.80	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Profit-taking took some prices off their highs in modest afternoon business, but most of the session's heavy gains on President Reagan's remarks about cutting the U.S. budget deficit remained intact, dealers said.

By 1500 GMT Monday the FTSE 100 index was up 49.9 points (2.9 per cent) from last Friday's closing to 1,728.2, after a high of 1,734.8 at 1319 GMT. A higher opening on Wall Street was anticipated and to some extent triggered the profit-taking, dealers said.

Prices have climbed steadily throughout the day after President Reagan at the weekend said a pact to cut the U.S. budget deficit by \$80 billion over the next two years could be tied up soon.

A fall in the Dow Jones industrial average after the first half-hour of trading on Wall Street accelerated the profit-taking here and by 1523 GMT the FTSE 100 index had fallen back again to stand at 1,719.9, still up 41.6 points on the day.

Arabs urged to set up joint stock market

CAIRO (R) — The chairman of the Union of Arab Stock Exchanges (UASE) called on Monday for the removal of all restrictions to inter-Arab trade and urged the setting up of a joint Arab stock market.

Mr. Hisham Al Oteibi, who is also director of Kuwait's stock market, was also quoted by the Middle East News Agency as saying Arab investors should have learned a lesson from the fall in prices on world stock markets.

"What happened in world stock markets was not a crash ... it corrected wrong positions as the former rise in prices was not normal," the agency quoted him as saying.

Mr. Oteibi called on Arab countries to remove all restrictions to make their market dealings easier as a step towards creating a joint Arab stock market.

He suggested that central banks in Arab countries should contribute towards setting up such a market.

Mr. Oteibi is chairing a three-day symposium in Cairo on the importance of information about Arab stock markets. It is being attended by the seven UASE members — Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia.

On Sunday, Egypt urged Arab countries to increase inter-Arab investment as a way to avoid

repercussions from the recent world stock market "crash" and to help economic development in the region.

Economy Minister Youssef Mustapha made the plea at the opening session of the UASE meeting.

He said Egypt was ready to provide technical and material assistance to make this possible. Mr. Al Oteibi said Arab stock markets should be developed to attract funds now invested outside the area and boost economic development.

Mr. Oteibi said the drop in oil prices and the fall in the value of the dollar were behind trade deficits from which most Arab countries suffered.

"Some of these countries withdrew large portions of their reserves invested abroad to cover this deficit," he said.

He suggested Arab states should provide better conditions to develop local stock markets to attract more Arab funds and finance projects that would help strengthen trade.

Mr. Mustapha told the meeting that 40 per cent of Egypt's 1987-92 projected investment programme needed \$18 billion from the Egyptian private sector, to be financed jointly with Arab and foreign funds.

"This makes it necessary to exert more efforts to attract funds into the Egyptian market," he said.

Plans to rescue Sudan Airways anger unions

KHARTOUM (R) — Government plans to save Sudan Airways, the national carrier, from plunging deeper into the red have touched a raw nerve for Sudan's powerful trade unions.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's government wants the company, one of the oldest airlines in Africa, changed from a public corporation to a company with shares initially held by the government.

It says this would bring flexibility and an improvement of notoriously bad services. But the cost would be lost jobs for hundreds of employees, with others having to be rehired on new terms.

Sudan Airways has been in the red virtually since it acquired its initial fleet of De Havilland Doves in 1947. A management statement last week said its deficit in foreign currency alone had reached a staggering \$18.4 million.

Union leaders readily admit that the airline's performance is poor and agree with government views that it had to be streamlined by turning it into a company.

"But it should not be done at the expense of a single job," said Mr. Imad Al Din Babkir, a leading member in one of the company's unions.

Mr. Babkir and other union leaders also object to what they

see as government plans to privatise the company. And they suspect the International Monetary Fund was behind the proposed changes as part of an agreement on economic policies reached in September between Sudan and the Fund.

The government denies that the airline overhaul has anything to do with the agreement, and says plans to improve the company's performance have been in the offing since late last year.

Nearly 75 per cent of the estimated 2,800 employees of the airline have been on strike since Oct. 29 to protest at the loss of jobs, but the company's new management is unmoved.

"There is a terrible understaffing problem in the company. We have 2,800 people, but we only need 1,800," the airline manager, Sir Al Khim Mahjoub, told Reuters.

The company suspended all flights on Oct. 30 for five days to allow for its restructuring.

Aviation experts say Sudan Airways' sad record as an unreliable company is largely due to its dwindling fleet.

The U.S.-educated Mahjoub, who worked for the Saudi flag carrier Saudia for 11 years before he took over Sudan Airways, said the company had a single Fokker aircraft in service when he joined late last year.

Dollar, stocks rally in Asia and Europe

LONDON (R) — The dollar and shares rallied in Europe on Monday after President Reagan forecast U.S. budget cuts of \$80 billion over two years, but investors were nervous, still haunted by concern over the U.S. economy.

Since the "Black Monday" crash of share values four weeks ago, financial markets have focused on the massive U.S. budget deficit as a key problem facing the world economy.

The headline on budget deficit talks between the White House and the Democrat-controlled Congress in Washington is Friday, President Reagan, a Republican, said in his weekly radio broadcast on Saturday he expected agreement on a budget compromise this week.

Some dealers said the dollar's recovery from historic lows early last week could be on shaky ground and heavy selling of the U.S. currency could reemerge. One London analyst, commenting on President Reagan's weekend statements, said it was "like saying we've agreed to cure the patient, we just have to decide which leg to chop off."

Nevertheless, the dollar and share values powered ahead at the start of the week on the important Tokyo market, which closes before the European day begins.

The dollar opened at 1.7130 West German marks in London on Monday and touched a high of 1.7175 in morning trading. It had closed at 1.7075 in Tokyo on Monday and 1.6875 in New York on Friday, unchanged from its last London close.

Stock markets in London, Frankfurt, Paris and Amsterdam were underpinned on Monday by the dollar's strength. A weak dollar threatens export earnings of European companies and its recent falls added to investor worries about corporate stock.

Since the crash on Oct. 19, the New York market has risen by 11.3 per cent of its value, while the London and Tokyo markets

are still down by 18.2 and 12.2 per cent respectively. At the start of the fifth post-crash week most analysts were reluctant to forecast clear trends.

On Monday gold slipped on the dollar's strength and was fixed in London at \$461.75 an ounce compared with a previous fix on Friday afternoon of \$464.95.

Dealers in Europe said the main market factor this week would be the deficit cut talks.

The White House and Congress must agree on budget-cutting measures before the end of the week. If they do not, the revised Gramm-Rudman law would automatically trigger a spending cut of \$23 billion.

President Reagan said that White House and congressional negotiators are discussing \$80 billion in reductions over two years.

"I'm confident, this coming week, the negotiators will agree to a deficit-cutting package that is fair and enforceable," President Reagan said in his radio broadcast.

He said he anticipated agreement on \$30 billion worth of deficit cuts in the current fiscal year and another \$50 billion next year. The current year began on Oct. 1.

Mr. Ian Harwood of Warburg Securities in London said that, if a budget-cutting agreement was reached, the market would quickly turn its attention to the global interest rate picture and the possibility of an early meeting of the Group of Seven major industrialised nations and a coordinated rate cut.

European Community finance ministers met on Monday in Brussels to discuss joint economic and monetary strategies in response to the turmoil on world financial markets.

In London, the blue-chip Financial Times/Stock Exchange index of 100 leading British shares opened 29.2 points or 1.7 per cent up at 1,707.5 and had gone past 1,730 by lunchtime.

In Frankfurt, the Boersen-Zeitung index of 30 leading shares started 3.30 points or 1.1 per cent higher at 292.57 points. But dealers said turnover was thin and domestic and foreign investors were wary.

French share prices were broadly firmer and the bourse indicator there posted gains of 4.73 per cent at the session's opening. The All Share Swiss index was 16.1 points higher at \$45.3 points and the Milan stock index was indicated up 0.6 per cent at the start of trade.

The Tokyo stock market's 225-share average gained 167.18 points to close at 22,615.43 after a 901.75 point surge on Friday.

In Sydney, stocks rebounded from early losses to close sharply higher after investors shrugged off initial pessimism from Wall Street's downturn on Friday.

There had been fears that the worldwide stock market crash since "Black Monday" on Wall Street four weeks ago would mean Eurotunnel could have problems in completing the share issue.

But some analysts said it seemed applications would have to be scaled down because of demand. Shareholders have been promised travel privileges linked to the size of their holding.

The link will consist of a 50-kilometre twin bore railway tunnel and total cost is estimated at some \$4.7 billion (\$8.72 billion). Preliminary drilling has already begun.

Britain's Sunday Telegraph newspaper said publisher Robert Maxwell had agreed to underwrite £37 million worth of the shares.

The report said Mr. Maxwell would raise the capital from his Pergamon Group Ltd publishing firm and its pension funds.

A spokesman for Mr. Maxwell said: "We don't comment on rumours."

But sources close to the publisher said he had agreed to underwrite at least 10 per cent of the £353.5 million (\$600 million) British portion of the share issue.

Eurotunnel said last week it hoped to place between 30 per cent to 50 per cent of the British shares with institutional investors.

Italy expects chaos in air

ROME (R) — Italy on Monday began what could be one of the most chaotic weeks for air transport as ground and flight staff stage a series of strikes to press demands for new contracts and better pensions.

The Italian media have dubbed the next seven days as "the black week" for air transport because of the many flights expected to be cancelled.

On Monday, ground staff at Rome's Leonardo Da Vinci airport, the national hub for Italian air traffic, were striking for three and a half hours.

Eight more hours of strikes by ground staff, who are pressing demands for a new contract, were planned for Wednesday at Rome and Milan airports.

Major Australian bank hikes reserves for doubtful debts

MELBOURNE (R) — Australia's second largest bank said on Monday it had sharply increased its cushion against Third World debts and any arising from the share market crash.

The Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ) set aside 332.05 million dollars (\$231.5 million) in the year to Sept. 30, 1987 as a provision for bad and doubtful debts — almost double the figure for 1985/86.

The sharp increase reflected plans of the group's 22 Third World debtors to reschedule their borrowings and included a buffer for any unseen bad debts from the stock market slump.

ANZ Managing Director Will Bailey told a news conference: "We're very comfortable with our levels of provisioning ... I can sleep better for it."

A detailed assessment of risks in the wake of the slump showed ANZ had minimal exposure.

"We haven't lost one cent from any of the activities of so-called entrepreneurs because in each case we looked at the complete deal, made certain it was safe and knew where the repayments were coming from," he noted.

Despite the increased bad debt shield, representing almost a

third of the bank's 1.52 billion dollars (\$1.04 billion) exposure to the Third World, the bank posted a record profit.

After tax profit for the year ended Sept. 30 rose 21 per cent to 385.15 million dollars (\$264 million) on gross income also 21 per cent higher at 8.08 billion dollars (\$5.5 billion).

ANZ has about 25 per cent of the Australian Trading Bank market and similar shares in other banking sectors, behind Westpac Banking Corp with about 29 per cent, according to banking analysts.

The ANZ profit, higher than analysts forecast, was helped by a 158 million dollar (\$108.6 million) pension fund surplus used to aid the debt provisioning.

"It is a satisfactory result with some very prudent provisioning," said banking analyst Craig Drummond of Melbourne broker J.B. Wren and Son.

Mr. Bailey said the bank was still doing business with at least 16 Third World debtors and wanted to keep doing so.

"We don't want it (the debt) repaid. We want it serviced," Mr. Bailey said. "It's terribly easy to put your money into the safest risk on the world and get a low return."

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1987

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It would be advisable to use more than ordinary effort in reducing your ideas to a more practical and workable level this morning. Be kind and thoughtful to your friends and family today.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You must use more tact and wisdom when planning your day because you're worried about something. Be very thoughtful of your mate and gain much support.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Attempt to remove obstacles from your path rather than trying to bulldoze them. Avoid a friend who is too nosy today; there may be ulterior motives at work.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Carefully consider your credit and career situations this morning. This is not a good day to ask favors of friends or important people. You'll probably be turned down.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Consider the possibility of getting into a new and possibly quite lucrative business venture. Reappraise a newcomer before accepting this person.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Releas your usual stubbornness and what your mate wants today, even though you don't especially like the activity. Carefully review your financial situation.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A public number is not working out as you'd like, but take this situation

in stride and everything will work out. Don't let a grumpy associate disturb your thoughts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) Set up a better budget to follow at home. Discuss how to make a product move faster with a clever business associate. Be very careful while driving tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) Cut conversations down to a minimum with fellow workers. If your mate is upset this evening, be kind. This is not a good day to get into new assessments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure that your home is in good condition, and then enjoy an inexpensive entertainment with friends. Be tactful with a family friend tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Postpone a little trip you had planned, and work on necessary home repairs instead. Your communication skills are not up to par today, so don't argue.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Safeguard your property and possessions during the day, and do not visit a friend this evening. Set up a better budget. Use much care in making today.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You may feel stifled and irritable because things are not working as rapidly as you'd like. Keep a measured pace and all will be fine. Be contemplative.

THE Daily Crossword by Bernard Marn

ACROSS

- 1 Horse
- 2 Moving aimlessly
- 3 Bubbly beverage
- 4 Rhythmic
- 5 Chief
- 6 The filler
- 7 Nursery rhyme pair
- 8 Pub potato
- 9 So-so grades
- 10 Bunch
- 11 Work the land
- 12 Modes
- 13 Cotton fabric
- 14 Arise
- 15 Wild ox
- 16 Panama is one
- 17 Pinky or Gypsy
- 18 Piano piece
- 19 Overhead railways
- 20 Comic Amsterdam
- 21 Elysium
- 22 Steak
- 23 Satisfy
- 24 Lands
- 25 Rap
- 26 Macaw
- 27 Press
- 28 Bookish
- 29 Team
- 30 Superlative suffix
- 31 Strich or May
- 32 Brachid
- 33 Pileups
- 34 Count of Monte Cristo
- 35 Gaze

DOWN

- 1 Inglese
- 2 Keiffish card
- 3 Mechanical course
- 4 Letter from Athens
- 5 Hugobers
- 6 OT jumper
- 7 Encouraging sounds
- 8 Fruit drink
- 9 Ship-shaped gold table
- 10 Love affair of a kind
- 11 Chaplain
- 12 Houston athlete
- 13 Urge onward
- 14 Sports org.
- 15 Eat well
- 16 College gp.
- 17 Like a julep
- 18 Wife of Esau
- 19 Grants
- 20 Dry source
- 21 Indian queen
- 22 Podiatrist's concern
- 23 Helen's mom
- 24 Inspects
- 25 Slave of old
- 26 Hugobers
- 27 Corner
- 28 Eager
- 29 Mountain lake they say
- 30 Diala
- 31 Jenny
- 32 Was brave
- 33 Expunge
- 34 Hecide
- 35 Leggy bird
- 36 "— true what they say —"
- 37 Drove
- 38 Curved
- 39 Tyrant
- 40 Spank
- 41 Ice cream portion

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

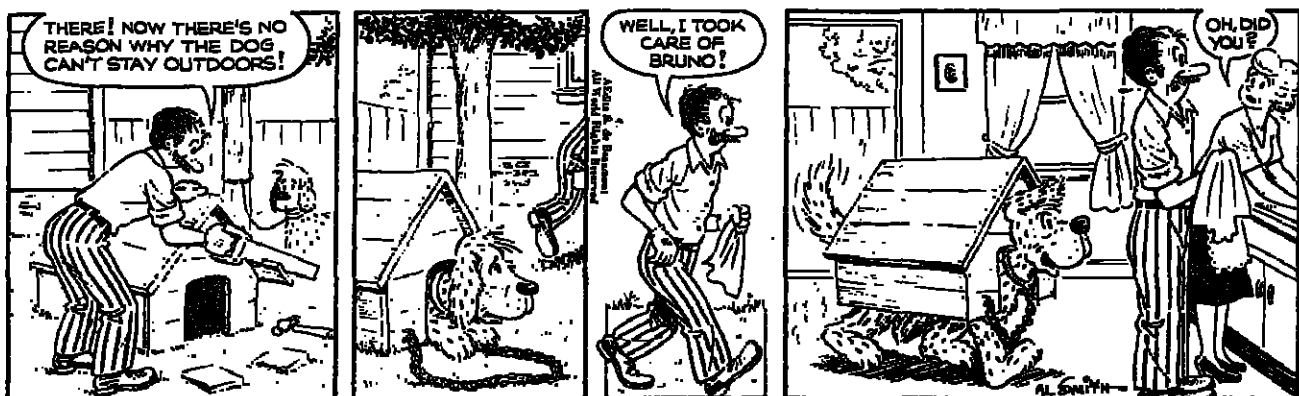
ACROSS

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- 60 DOWN

Peanuts



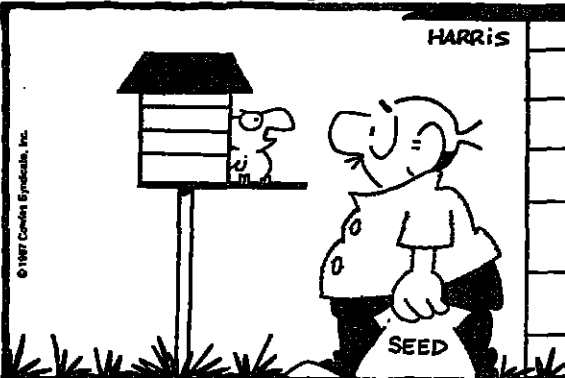
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YODIL

IMPER

INGELT

GRAHNE

THE THING ABOUT A HOME THAT GETS THE MOST INTEREST.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DROOP MOUTH OUTCRY HYMNAL

Answer: That rous premed girls who don't this— "NO" TOO MUCH

26 die in Denver plane crash

DENVER (AP) — Investigators were studying the wreckage Monday of a Continental Airlines jet that passengers say veered sharply during takeoff in a snowstorm before crashing, killing 26 and injuring 56.

The twin-engine DC-9, taking off with 82 people aboard, flipped over and broke into three pieces Sunday in the deadliest crash of Stapleton International Airport's 58-year history.

Bob Johnson, chief of the Denver office of the National Transportation Safety Board, said up to 50 investigators will study the wreckage and other evidence for the next seven to 10 days.

A report of probable cause may not be available for months, depending on when hearings are scheduled, he said.

Continental and airport officials refused to speculate on the cause, but witnesses said the DC-9 was barely off the ground when it hit the slushy runway.

"The right wing dropped, and we veered to the right," said passenger Fred H. Helpenstell, a 56-year-old physician. "Then the left wing dropped and we veered to the left and crashed."

hypothermia, as were several who spent hours inside the crushed wreckage before being freed.

"I remember thinking, 'I'm about to die this is it' and then I wondered what's it going to feel like," Helpenstell said.

Libby Smoot, who escaped virtually unharmed, said she and other passengers "were petrified."

"We were skidding on our side and eating dirt," she said. "A lot of people were screaming. A ball of flame passed by us as we were skidding along."

The 56 injured were transported to hospitals. Most were taken to Denver General Hospital. Those not seriously injured were released within hours.

Three crewmembers, including the pilot and first officer, were among those killed.

Flight 1713 originated in Oklahoma City and was en route to Boise, Idaho.

Snow had been falling most of the day in Denver and airport officials said visibility was low and flights were hampered by strong crosswinds. At least 6 in-

ches (15 centimetres) of new, wet snow had fallen by midday.

Officials in the control tower saw a fireball on the north-south runway and later speculated that the fire came from wing tanks that exploded when the left wing separated from the plane's body.

The deaths and injuries were not caused by fire, officials said.

The fuselage broke into three main pieces and many of the passengers were trapped inside, some up to six hours.

The plane came to rest about 2,500 feet (760 metres) from the end of the 10,000-foot-long (3,050-metre-long) runway with bodies, injured passengers and wreckage strewn along the ground.

Airport spokesman Richard Boulware described the scene as a "jungle gym of mangled metal."

As crews worked to remove victims, one man emerged almost unscathed five hours later, said police detective John Wyckoff. The man, who was not identified, walked to an ambulance and was driven away sitting up. Wyckoff said.

Aquino elated by top rebel leader's arrest

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Gunmen killed a Philippine Navy lieutenant early Monday, and government leaders said they were pleased with the capture of a top guerrilla leader.

Police said two gunmen wearing jogging pants bounced a basketball as they waited for Lt. Celso Dela Cruz at a bus stop near the officer's home in Manila's Pandacan district.

When Lt. Dela Cruz, who was in civilian clothes, sat down in a passenger jeep, one of the gunmen walked up to him and shot him at close range, Police Cpl. Elpidio Pinzon said.

Although police said they had no evidence that Communist rebels were responsible, Pinzon said "the style looks like that of the sparrows," or Communist assassins blamed for more than 130 killings in Manila this year.

Meanwhile, the military chief of staff told reporters Monday that President Corason Aquino was "highly elated" by the capture Sunday of Juanito Rivera, the alleged vice chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and a reputed expert in political assassination.

"We are very happy that his arrest has taken place," Gen. Fidel Ramos said after briefing Mrs. Aquino on the capture.

"Maybe we can say we have dealt (the rebels) a severe blow, but as far as bending or neutralising or predicting any deadline for victory, I think we will stay clear of that for a while."

General killed in crash

The deputy commander of the military's Southern Command and seven others died when their helicopter struck a tree on takeoff and crashed on Basilan Island, the military said Monday.

Lt. Rommel Ronda, an air force spokesman, said Brig. Gen. Arturo Asuncion and eight others were returning to Zamboanga City from Basilan, some 880 kilometres south of Manila, after ceremonies Sunday marking the 37th anniversary of a marine brigade.

7 Tamil rebels killed in battle with Indian troops

COLOMBO (R) — Indian troops hunting Tamil separatist guerrillas killed seven of them and wounded at least 20 in a battle in eastern Sri Lanka, military sources said on Monday.

They said a large quantity of arms and ammunition was seized in the clash on Sunday in Batticaloa district. The rebels withdrew into the jungle carrying the wounded, the sources said.

The independent Sun newspaper said 27 rebels were killed in the battle but there was no official confirmation.

One source said two Indian soldiers searching for rebels in the northern Jaffna peninsula were killed on Sunday when the guerrillas set off a mine under their vehicle at Sudumalai.

The sources said the Indians were searching Sudumalai vicinity following intelligence reports that Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and his deputy, Mahattaya, were hiding there.

The sources said several suspected rebels were rounded up, but Prabhakaran and his deputy were not among them.

More than 20,000 Indian troops have been deployed in the island's north and east to enforce a pact signed between President Junius Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in July to end the island's six years of ethnic bloodshed.

The troops launched an offensive last month to disarm the Tigers, the most powerful rebel group seeking an independent Tamil homeland, after it repudiated the accord and massacred 200 members of the majority Sinhalese community.

The Indians seized the rebels' northern stronghold of Jaffna City and have fanned out in the east of the island.

A ship carrying Indian troop reinforcements to the island was expected to leave Calcutta soon, Sri Lankan state radio said. It did not give the number of troops.

U.S. team may have role in Nicaraguan talks

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (Agencies) — Nicaragua's senior Roman Catholic clergyman says a team of experienced U.S. negotiators could help mediate ceasefire talks between the Sandinista government and the contra rebels.

But the clergyman, Archbishop Miguel Obando Y Bravo, made clear Sunday he had not yet accepted the government's proposal that he serve as chief mediator in the ceasefire talks.

Cardinal Obando Y Bravo said he was awaiting for authorisation by the nine-member Conference of Nicaraguan Bishops, of which he is president, to assume the leadership of the mediation effort.

He said he also wants assurances that both sides would consider him "not a simple messenger, but an intermediary who could make suggestions both to the government of Nicaragua as well as to the resistance."

The suggestion that American negotiators join the ceasefire talks came from U.S. House Speaker Jim Wright, who received visits last week from Cardinal Obando Y Bravo and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. The cardinal at the time said that if he agreed to mediate, he would like help from experienced advisers.

A church spokesman, Monsignor Bismarck Carballo, said Sunday in Managua that the San-

dinistas have endorsed the participation of the four.

Carballo identified them as Paul C. Warnke, head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency under former President Jimmy Carter; Ed King, a retired colonel who has studied Central American armies; Wilson Morris, an aide to Mr. Wright and Richard Pena, who has worked with Mr. Wright on Central American issues.

Whether the four join the process depends on the contras' response. Cardinal Obando Y Bravo said Sunday.

He said he would not comment on Mr. Wright's proposal or any other aspect of the possible negotiations until he formally accepted the mediation post.

Cardinal Obando Y Bravo tentatively accepted the position during a two-hour meeting with Mr. Ortega at the Vatican embassy in Washington on Friday.

He also agreed to convey to the rebels an 11-point cease-fire plan that Mr. Ortega proposed.

Mr. Ortega's plan calls for a ceasefire to begin on Dec. 5 and for contras inside Nicaragua to move to one of three ceasefire zones. The rebels would lay down their arms on Jan. 5, before independent observers, and then be granted amnesty.

Leaders of the contras' Nicaraguan Resistance umbrella group have not yet formally received

Chun formally announces election date

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — President Chun Doo-hwan announced Monday that the first direct presidential elections in 16 years will be held Dec. 16, and police went on nationwide alert after a weekend of campaign violence.

Mr. Chun, formally announcing the date that was decided on last week, warned against allowing provincialism and violence to disrupt the election.

"The peaceful transfer of power can be achieved only through a peaceful election," he said.

Immediately after Mr. Chun's announcement, representatives for government candidate Roh Tae-woo and main opposition candidates Kim Young-sam, Kim Dae-jung and Kim Jong-pil registered them to run.

Minor party candidates Kim Sun-chuk and Shin Chung-il also registered with the election commission. Candidates must register by next Monday.

Tornado rips through Texas; kills 5

DALLAS (R) — A violent tornado that smashed through Texas on Sunday killed at least five people as it flattened buildings, blocked roads and ripped up telephone and power lines.

As many as 11 deaths had been reported but only five could be confirmed, police in Austin said.

With telephone and power lines down and roads blocked, officials said the full extent of injuries and damage could not be immediately determined.

The tornado travelled along a 400 kilometre corridor through six Texas counties, ending about 150 kilometres south east of Dallas.

"It wasn't on the ground all the time, it skipped," one county sheriff said. "It tore a path the complete length of the county."

"I know of one two-storey brick house that was completely destroyed and it was brand new — the people had just moved in."

Deng voices hopes of meeting Gorbachev

PEKING (AP) — Deng Xiaoping, China's senior leader, said Monday that if the Soviet Union brings about a settlement of the Kampuchean conflict before his 85th birthday, he would fulfill a promise to meet Mikhail Gorbachev on Soviet soil.

Mr. Deng, 83, renewed his offer concerning Mr. Gorbachev at a meeting with Japanese Socialist Party Chairman Takako Doi, Japanese sources said.

In September 1986, Mr. Deng told American journalists with CBS News that he was ready to break his self-imposed rule of not travelling out of China and would meet Mr. Gorbachev anywhere in the Soviet Union if Moscow caused the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea and a peaceful political solution to that nation's 9-year-old war.

The sources, demanding anonymity, said Mr. Deng estimated he would remain healthy for another two years, and added that he was willing to make the Soviet trip if the Kampuchean question was settled in that period.

Mr. Gorbachev has called for improved relations between Moscow and Peking but China says it will not normalise relations, strained since the early 1960s, until Moscow removes the "three obstacles" of Kampuchea, the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the heavy Soviet troop deployment along the Chinese border.

The Chinese say Kampuchea is the most important of the three. Mr. Deng said he had seen no real Soviet effort to solve the Kampuchean conflict since he made his offer.

Mr. Deng spearheaded a drive to bring younger people into party leadership when he retired from the Politburo Standing Committee and several other key party posts at a party congress earlier this month. But he is thought to be in good health and is regarded as China's most powerful man.

Brazil to hold direct presidential elections

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazilian legislators have cut President Jose Sarney's term from six to four years in a humiliating action that implies direct presidential elections will be held next year for the first time since 1960, political analysts said.

The action, taken on Sunday in a 48 to 45 vote by a key constitutional committee, has yet to be discussed by the constituent assembly, but political analysts think it is unlikely that it would be reversed.

With unemployment high and inflation spiraling to an annual rate of around 300 per cent, legislators believe that only a popularly elected president can restore credibility, analysts said.

A poll by the newspaper Folha De Sao Paulo on Sunday showed 80 per cent in favour of a cut in Mr. Sarney's term.

Mr. Sarney succeeded from the vice presidency to the presidency in 1985 on the death of Tancredino Neves, who gained the office through indirect election by an Electoral College and died 38 days after his term began.

But as opinion polls at first approved his performance as head of Latin America's largest country, Mr. Sarney seemed to have changed his mind.

His popularity enjoyed ratings of over 80 per cent after the launching of the Cruzado Plan, a price freeze introduced by his government on Feb. 28, 1986.

Because of the price freeze, the PMDB Party achieved the biggest electoral win of the country's political history in polls last year.

The party won 22 of the 23 state governorships and an absolute majority in the Senate and Chamber of Deputies.

Nevertheless, one week later, before the vote-counting was even over, the government introduced stiff price rises. Since then, Mr. Sarney's popularity never stopped declining.

Among likely candidates if presidential elections are confirmed next year are: Former Finance Minister Dilson Funaro, who masterminded the Cruzado Plan, Sao Paulo State Senator Mario Covas and Sao Paulo State Governor Orestes Quercia.

COLUMNS 7&8

Allies honour victims of wartime blunder

SLAPTON SANDS, England (AP) — With tears, tributes and a bugler playing taps, the United States and Britain have finally honoured 749 Americans killed in a rehearsal for the D-Day landings in World War II. A crowd estimated by police at 300 prayed for the soldiers and sailors who perished off the Devon coast in south west England on what came to be known as "the night of the bloody tiger." In driving rain overlooking the slate gray English Channel where the men died, officials pulled an American flag off a plaque commemorating the deaths. For Ken Small, a local guesthouse owner, it was the end of a 16-year battle to get some official recognition for the young recruits who lost their lives on April 28, 1944, when Exercise Tiger turned into a real battle. Exercise Tiger started as a mock assault on Slapton Sands Beach by 30,000 American troops but turned into a real battle when nine German E-boats torpedoed three amphibious landing craft. Hundreds were trapped and killed on the landing craft. Others died when some Americans opened fire on their own boats, thinking they were German, and hundreds were found the next morning floating upside down in the water because they had put their Mae West life vests around their waists instead of under their arms. Charles B. MacDonald, retired deputy chief historian of the U.S. Army who researched the exercise, said Saturday he believes the death toll was 946 — 749 soldiers and 197 seamen.

\$13m ransom sought in kidnap

MALAGA, Spain (R) — Kidnappers have asked a Lebanese magnate to pay \$13 million by Tuesday for the release of his five-year-old daughter abducted a week ago on Spain's Costa Del Sol, the newspaper ABC said on Monday. The kidnappers telephoned ABC instructions on how to find a picture and a recorded message of Melodie, the daughter of Raymond Nakachian and Korean-born singer and socialite Kimera. They turned down Nakachian's offer to pay \$1 million. They said the little girl was not feeling well and "something bad might occur" if he did not pay \$13 million by Tuesday. Several newspaper reported two unnamed Britons were detained on Sunday in connection with the abduction of Melodie in the resort of Estepona last Monday. No confirmation was immediately available from police.

Marie-Antoinette's pitcher stolen

THOIRY, France (AP) — Marie-Antoinette's pitcher and wash basin and other historic treasures valued at about 1 million francs (\$170,000) were stolen from the 16th century Thoiry Chateau, its owner said. Also stolen was a rifle with a gold-and-silver stock given to King Louis XVI by the King of England, and a writing case that belonged to Machault d'Arnouville, Louis XV's finance minister and one-time owner of Thoiry Chateau, which is about 40 kilometres west of Paris. Vicount Paul De La Panouse, a zoologist whose family has owned the elegant Chateau for 13 generations, said a band of three or four robbers forced the shutters of the castle's archives room at about 4 a.m. Sunday. Surprised by family friends staying overnight at the chateau, the robbers fired a warning shot before fleeing. De La Panouse said. The pitcher and wash basin made of seves porcelain used by Marie-Antoinette while she was imprisoned in the conciergerie awaiting execution were among the items taken, he said.

Poles attend rally against alcoholism

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Under the slogan "to drink or to be," about 2,000 young Poles took part in a nationally televised rally against alcoholism. "Alcoholism is the most threatening and important issue," said the rally's organiser, Marek Kotanski, a psychologist who founded an anti-drug abuse movement known as Monar. "We must struggle for sobriety on all fronts," he said, speaking on a stage over which hung placards with the names of dozens of alcoholic substances consumed by Poles, ranging from vodka to anti-freeze. The government ordered liquor stores closed Friday in Warsaw and other cities in support of Kotanski's anti-alcoholism campaign. The closure caused long lines to form outside liquor stores on Thursday and on Saturday by the shops selling Polish vodka for dollars and Western currency. According to official estimates, there are about 1 million alcoholics requiring medical treatment in the country. About 3 to 4 million other people, among a total population of 37 million, are problem drinkers. The government and Roman Catholic Church have both sponsored anti-alcohol programmes.

Australian did not buy Van Gogh's Irises

SYDNEY (R) — Australian billionaire Alan Bond is not the mystery bidder who bought Vincent Van Gogh's masterpiece, Irises for a record \$53.9 million last week, a spokesman for the tycoon said on Monday. "It's more speculation and there is no truth in it. He did not buy Van Gogh's Irises," spokesman Errol Considine told Reuters. Sotheby's sold the Dutch artist's oil painting in auction in New York last Wednesday but declined to identify the buyer. "All we can say is that it was a European dealer acting on behalf of an unidentified buyer," a Sotheby's spokeswoman said. Art experts and a leading New York society columnist later said they thought Bond was the buyer. The art-loving Australian tycoon owns breweries, publishing companies and gold mines. He is also well known for wrestling the America's Cup, the premier yachting trophy, from the United States four years ago and then losing it back this year.

Woman mistakenly killed at roadblock

BENEVENTO, Italy (AP) — A magistrate has ordered an investigation into the fatal shooting of a 19-year-old woman by police looking for a robbery suspect. Italian news media has reported. State-run RAI television and the ANSA news agency said the woman, Maria Francesca Chiusolo, and her boyfriend were driving to a pizzeria in this town 70 kilometres north east of Naples when their car was blocked by an unmarked police car. Police, who were patrolling the area in hopes of nabbing the authors of a series of recent holdups, became suspicious when they noticed the car travelling on a little-used road, the reports said. When a plainclothes policeman approached the car wielding a machine gun, the couple mistook him for a robber and the boyfriend put the car in reverse and tried to escape, according to the reports.

Lack of sleep brings protester down

DRAGUIGNAN, France (R) — An explorer who perched up a half-built pylon for six weeks to stop the French electricity board erecting a high-power line across his country home has finally been brought down to earth. Merry Otin had camped night and day atop a makeshift platform 35 metres up the pylon to stop the electricity board (EDF) running a 400,000-volt system across his country retreat. But he was caught out when he abandoned his vigil at Montauroux, south eastern France, early on Friday to snatch a few hours' sleep in a nearby caravan, environmentalists who supported his cause said on Sunday. Electricity board technicians, backed up by a police, rushed in before dawn and finished the job by helicopter. Otin began his protest in October after losing a court case against EDF plans to site the main thoroughway for the south eastern Alpes-Maritimes Department on his land. He had returned from a trip to Nepal in 1983 to find his century-old trees lopped down and his garden a building site. The EDF scored a first victory early in October when Otin was taken to hospital after a car accident. Technicians slipped in and began work but had to break off when he discharged himself against medical advice.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SILBERT
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ ♣K952 ♢983 ♠AK52
Your partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
- Q.2—As South with 80 on score and neither side vulnerable, you hold:
♠A ♣AK9872 ♢AQ10 ♠93
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2♥ Pass 2NT 4♠
What action do you take?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKJ93 ♣A1093 ♢K102 ♠9
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK5 ♣AQ5 ♢J872 ♠AQ6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass 1♠ ?
What action do you take?
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ873 ♣8 ♢KQ762 ♠103
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass
2♣ Pass 2♥ Pass
2♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠7 ♣KJ93 ♢QJ106 ♠AQ83
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1♠ Dbl Pass Pass
Pass
What is your opening lead?

Japanese volcano erupts again

TOKYO (AP) — A volcano that forced the evacuation of an island south of Tokyo a year ago erupted Monday, spewing a column of white smoke and triggering hundreds of small earthquakes, but causing no immediate damage, officials said.

"There was a sudden bang from above, not from the ground, and the roof of our building shook sharply," said a government official on Oshima Island 110 kilometres south of Tokyo.

A television reporter flying over the island in a helicopter reported seeing a column of white smoke as high as 2,000 metres above the crater of Mount Mihara.